

LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 1024919

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Mr. E. Almond

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-ninth edition of the *Lailand Chronicle*.

At the Annual General Meeting held in July, a few words from our Treasurer telling us that subscriptions are to remain the same this year, despite the fact that the rent of the excellent venue for our meetings has risen dramatically, was well received as was the fact that the accounts for the year showed a small profit.

Congratulations to our Chairman, Peter Houghton, as his contribution to the year 2012/13 *Chronicle*, 'The Rubber Family of Leyland', was judged by Mr. David Hunt, curator of the Leyland Museum, to be the winner of the Historian of the Year shield. Peter was also awarded a life membership for his work for the Historical Society so, again, our congratulations, so richly deserved.

At the AGM there was a sad moment when our Chairman announced the deaths of two of our long serving members. First, his dear mother, Maud, who has been such a great inspiration to him and instilled into him a love of history and especially that of Leyland. Maud was a good and kind lady who was made a Life Member for her work within the Society. Second, the announcement of the death of Derek Wilkins. Derek's contribution to the Society through his many articles in the *Chronicle*, delving into his own family's background and historical manuscripts, gave us all so much pleasure.

It is sad, too, for me to have to record the death of Vic Hill who had been a member for many years and who, with Margaret Nicholas and Albert Williams, was instrumental in introducing your editor to the delights of the Historical Society meetings.

They will all be very sadly missed.

Articles received for this season's *Chronicle* provide a good read and I thank contributors for them.

Once again, our Chairman has prepared a varied programme for the new season with excellent speakers for our entertainment. We thank Peter for all the hard work and the time he devotes to the Leyland Historical Society.

Mary Longton

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Society Affairs
2012 - 2013

Starting the forty-fifth season in Preston Guild Week on Monday, 3rd September, meant that the only subject we could have was the story of the Preston Guild as told by a new burgess who was due to be introduced at the Guild Court the following Friday, namely, Dr Alan Crosby. He told the members about the origins of the Guild, its various themes and adaptations through the centuries as it changed to meet the demands and needs of the growing population of the town, now the city of Preston. There were many questions from the members about Alan's own ceremony and his right as a burgess to take sheep around the town.

October, 2012

This year's Mikron Theatre production was entitled 'Can You Keep A Secret? - The Rise & Fall of the Yorkshire Luddites'. The time is 1812, the place is Marsden, a village huddled into the valley at the foot of the Pennine moorland and Maeve Larkin's brand new script weaved together the stories of the Luddites and the mill owners, the inventors and the croppers; spinning a yarn as richly colourful as only Mikron can. It is a village which is unravelled when, by a twist of fate, families rise against each other in the fight for progress and the fight for survival. Marsden was the home town of Enoch Taylor, inventor and manufacturer of the first cropping machines. It was also the home to many croppers who saw their futures disappearing because of the new machines. Joining the Luddite rebellion, a group of croppers took things into their own hands with fatal consequences.

Two hundred years on, the village is home to Mikron Theatre Company and the actors brought all the characters to life in

their usual professional way telling the dramatic events that led to the assault on Rawfold's Mill, the killing of William Horsfall, and the subsequent hanging of seventeen men in York. (Two of the cast did let their thoughts drift to their forthcoming wedding, the following week - we wish them much happiness.)

November, 2012

Following on from our previous season's Society trip to Liverpool's underground tunnels, we had a very interesting talk on Underground Manchester given by Keith Warrender, who has had two books published on the subject. Keith began with the tunnel complex under the various Co-operative buildings around Corporation and Balloon Streets near Victoria Station linking all the buildings to avoid the Manchester rain and for security reasons. After a view of the filled-in streets around Manchester Cathedral, which are still below the roads today, we moved on to the most famous Manchester tunnel (well, famous to me). This was for that most grandly named but ultimately useless Manchester and Salford Junction canal (M&SJ) which was planned to link the Mersey & Irwell River Navigation to the new Rochdale canal as the original line of the Rochdale only entered the Bridgewater which gave them a monopoly.

The M&SJ canal left the Rochdale canal above lock 90 and headed east entering a tunnel as it crossed Lower Mosley Street passing under numerous streets with locks in the tunnel to emerge just before the last lock into the River Irwell. The reason for the canal was soon extinguished as a short branch was built from the Bridgewater into the Irwell. The M&SJ canal soon fell into disuse for through traffic but when the Central Station and then the Great Northern warehouse were built on top of the canal it was used for rail transfers.

However, by the Second World War, it had been drained and was used as a large air raid shelter. Its last claim to fame came

when the Granada Studios (lately closed) were built over the tunnel with access from Studio 12; it was suggested that the tunnel could be used as a gondola trip for the Granada Studios Tours, however, this was not to be although tours are still available through the tunnel to this day.

The final part of the talk concerned the Manchester nuclear shelter which was planned to be used by the powers that be in the event of a nuclear war. When this was decommissioned it was taken over by BT and used as the underground network control centre for telecommunications in the city.

December, 2012

This month we saw the last 'dramalog' undertaken by Lizzie Jones with a subject close to her heart as her own family's story was told in 'A Long Way Home'. Their life around Standish and Wigan was told in Lizzie's inimitable style. She will be back in December to give us one of her talks.

January, 2013

We welcomed Robert Poole who talked about 'Samlesbury and the Lancashire Witches of 1612' where he could demonstrate that what you read is not necessarily the truth as he took apart the published report of the Witch Trials which took place at Lancaster Castle. Robert told us that the writer of the report had his own agenda and therefore slanted the story that way omitting some of the published details and adding others. Robert then showed the members the latest available photographs of that part of the castle formerly closed to the public, namely Lancaster Prison and pictures of the oldest parts of the castle where the witches were imprisoned prior to being executed.

February, 2013

This month saw the welcome return of 'Lancashire Poets and Poetry' as Sid Calderbank told the story of the various poets to be found in and around Blackburn. As Sid told the life story of each of the

poets, with recitations of their work and of their interdependence on one another, it was the Blackburn answer to the Bloomsbury set but more northern, eh!

March, 2013

We were given a presentation by Dr. Mark Baldwin who followed his previous presentations about Bletchley Park, Special Operations Executive and the Battle of the Atlantic, with a new lecture entitled '4000 Years of Keeping Secrets - The History of Cryptography'. This covered the history, description and use of codes and cyphers from the earlier periods to the present day, including an explanation of the difference between a code and a cypher. This was narrated by Mark in his usual detailed style without the use of any notes.

April, 2013

Another return this month saw Colin Dickinson giving us a detailed talk on the 'Watermills of Central Lancashire' with photographs of the various watermills to be found around Lancashire.

May, 2013

The Society's May trip this year was to Saltaire where, after an uneventful trip across the Pennines, we met the guides in the Congregational church. The members were given a bookmark which contained the details of a person who lived in Saltaire around the time of Sir Titus Salt who founded the village after he moved his mill and workforce there from the polluted atmosphere of Bradford.

Using the bookmarks, the guides told the story of the village and the people who lived there as we then wandered through the streets noting the houses of the bookmark people as we passed. We saw the mill, the lunch canteen, the school and the community hall, with all the streets named after the various members of the Salt family.

We then travelled the short distance from Saltaire into the centre of Bradford

where we debussed into the National Media Museum where most of the members started in the basement with the history of the camera with loads of cries of 'we used to have one of them'. We then proceeded up to the film and television floors with many hands-on activities including being a newsreader or a cameraman.

The floor that included 'TV Heaven' definitely was for me as I sat down to watch the first ever episode of *Brookside* from 1982 and an even earlier episode of *The Complete and Utter History of Britain*, an apt choice. This was the series that featured and was written by Michael Palin and Terry Jones just before they joined Monty Python. The exhibition on the ground floor featured the history of the computer and internet with more comments as before.

June, 2013

Our meeting on 3rd June featured Gail Newsham in the promised talk from last year about Dick, Kerr Ladies' Football Club 1917-1965. Here was a team that was more successful and therefore more popular than most male teams after the end of the First World War, having been formed to raise funds for the war injured. So after the team had visited foreign parts, it was no surprise that the male Football Association banned the ladies' football team from all their FA grounds. This ban was only lifted in the nineteen seventies. The ladies' team, however, continued to play on council pitches, rugby grounds and anywhere they could. Gail managed to contact the remaining members of the team and has produced a book that tells their story.

The website continues to grow since its inception in December 1999 to a point that up to early September the number of visitors to the site was over 58,000. Enquires have continued to flood in with over twenty requiring the committee's attention in the last twelve months.

At the end of the season we had 202 members although I should mention two who we sadly lost in the year, namely, Derek Wilkins, who wrote many articles for the Chronicle and Maud Houghton who kept me under control, now that is Doreen's job. The loss of my mother got me thinking and with the death of Mick Aston on 24th June, I came up with the idea of presenting a new award for the Society in my mum's name. As she encouraged me to attend an historical society meeting when I was at school and Mick's great aim was to encourage an interest in history and archaeology from an early age, it would be good to recognise the efforts of members who encourage young people to attend meetings. As student membership remains at a £1 this is not a fund raising exercise, nor would I expect them to attend every meeting, just encourage them to come to a meeting they may like and leave it to them.

We again ran the successful postal renewal system in the month of August.

I would just like to thank all the committee members for their assistance in the last twenty years and I hope they will continue to carry on in the future, especially Michael who acts as our Secretary and also looks into the planning applications and Mary who continues to edit the Chronicle.

July AGM 2013

This is where my Society Affairs usually just goes on to mention the July meeting but this year's Annual General Meeting was slightly different because after giving the usual shortened version of the above and being elected for another year as Chairman I was surprised to have been honoured with the Historian of the Year award for the article on the 'Quins of the Rubber industry'. Then there was another shock as Elizabeth, Senior Vice President, awarded me with Life Membership of the Society for the last twenty years' work; just for once I was almost speechless at a meeting.

Our talk that evening was Linda Barton from Preston Historical Society who gave a most instructive talk about Stephen Simpson's Gold Thread Works, from its earliest days until its eventual closure in this century.

September, 2013

For the start of the 46th season, on 2nd September, I gave the members a view of Leyland from a new angle. When the Wright Brothers took to the air in 1903, little did they think that the airplane could have so many useful applications (apps), through the one that started during World War One, namely aerial photography. With

the use of zoomed in photographs dating between 1929 and 1970, views of Leyland were discovered that had not been seen before. For a more up to date aerial view I used photographs from the high points of the town, namely the Parish Church, St. Ambrose's Church and the reconstructed hill above Leyland at Buckshaw Village.

If anyone would like to join the committee, its only ten meetings a year and we are friendly bunch, please see any of the current members of the committee at any time.

Peter Houghton
Chairman

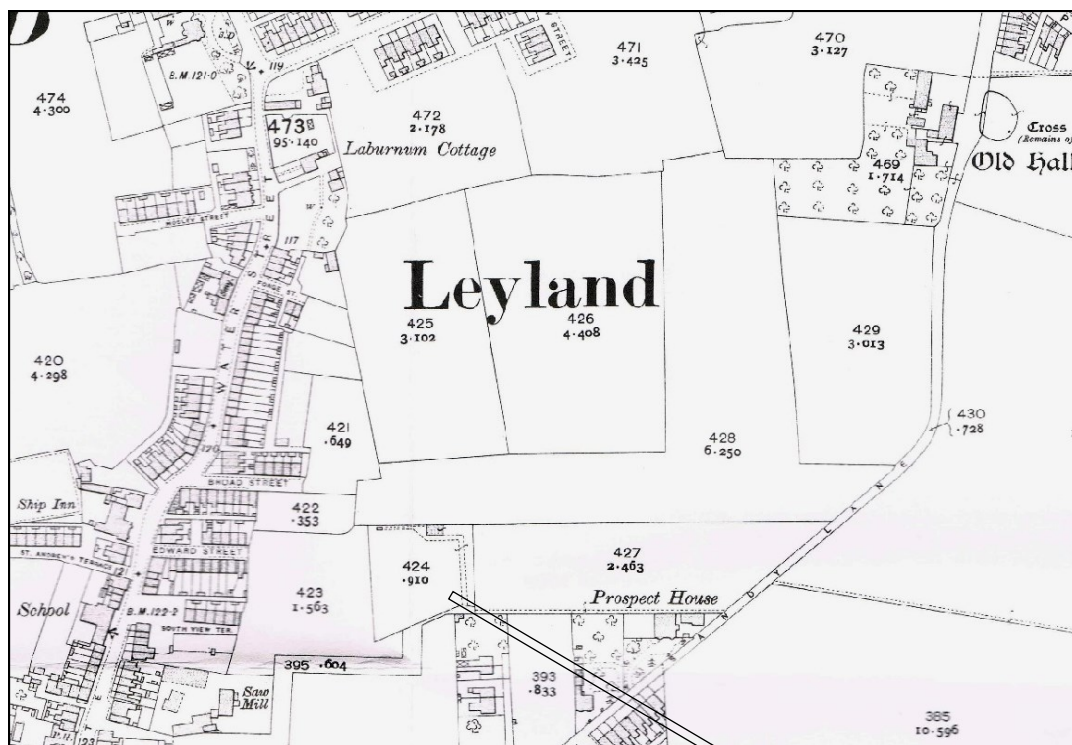
House Hunting - Leyland Style

Peter Houghton

When an old friend was talking to me about his family history, he wanted to know when his grandparents, the McHugh's, on his mother's side of the family lived in Leyland. Easy you would think as they were mentioned on both the 1891 and 1901 census, it was just that the address was given as 'Bowling Green House, Sandy Lane, Leyland'.

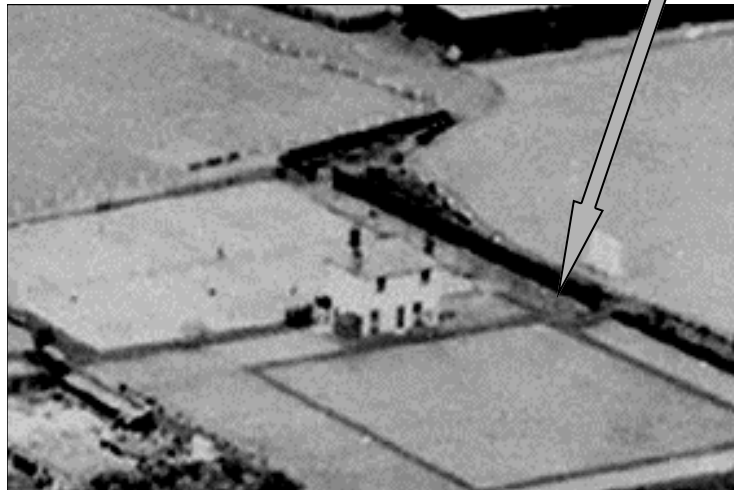
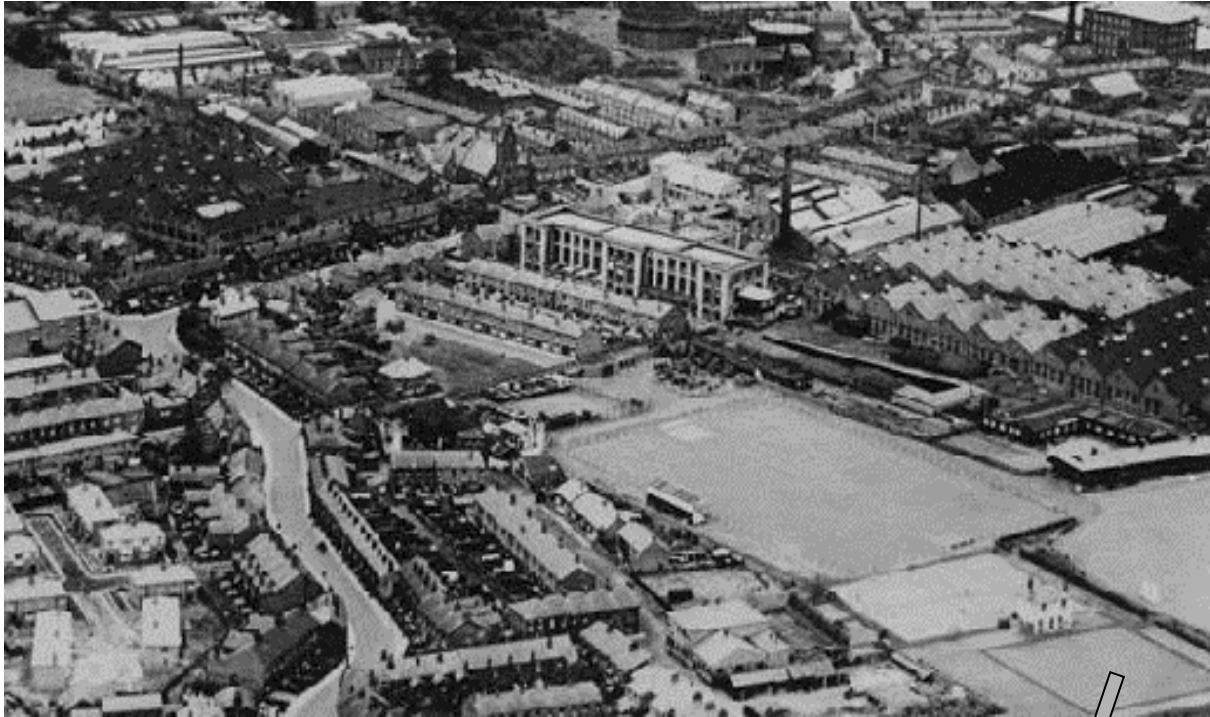
Society members with long memories will remember that one of our exhibitions, which we put on show at the Museum and Craft Fair, featured every property in Sandy Lane still in existence and from this we knew there was no property known as 'Bowling Green House'. But the census had it there listed between Prospect House (Sandy Lane) and Charnock Old Hall (then on Sandy Lane but now on the re-named Balcarres Road).

While consulting the 1909 Ordnance Survey Map for Leyland, an interesting detail came to light. If you follow the field path underneath the name of Prospect House, which is now better known as 'the Ginell', you reach field number 424. This would seem to have a property on it with the field seemingly bowling green size. As you can see there is no other property on Sandy Lane.



I then turned my attention to the aerial photographs I was using for my talk in September and having enlarged the 1932 copy of the Towngate picture, there appeared a house in the centre of the Leyland Motors Sports and Social Club which we have seen before. However, we have always assumed that it had been built by the Motors for the groundsman, but if the house had already been there it would explain why the football and cricket fields had been built around it.





The photograph clearly shows the detached house with a bowling green in front of the property. I am currently trying to find any details of a Bowling Green Club in the late 19th or early 20th century who used to use these facilities. In the next ten years, the house was demolished and no trace of it remains on the aerial photographs of the 1950s.

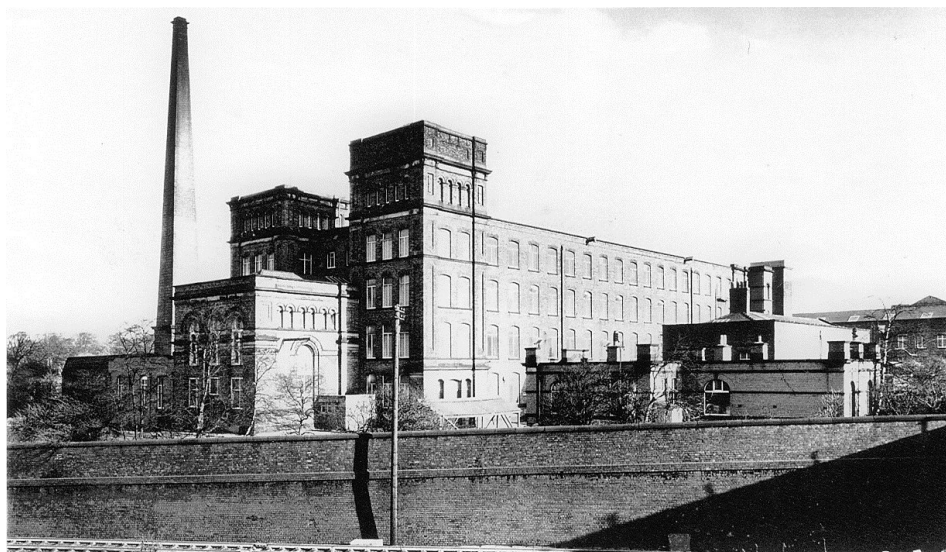
Note on the photograph that the Sports and Social Club were still using the temporary wooden buildings before the Club House was built later in the 1930s.

So a bit of family history research aided a bit of local history.

AN AWARD WINNING GARDEN RISES FROM THE ASHES OF A NINETEENTH CENTURY CRISIS

Joan Langford

There have been houses and people living in Farington for more than a thousand years, but until the 1830s nothing of significance appears to have happened, either good or bad, to warrant a mention in history books. However, in the 1830s when the industrial revolution came to this quiet part of rural Lancashire people's lives were changed beyond recognition and forever. By 1841, just ten years later, the population figure had risen four-fold to 1,719.



Farington Mill

What had happened? First, the construction of the railway line from Wigan to Preston, which effectively split Farington in two, and second, in 1834, the cotton mill was built.

By the 1830s cotton had become big business in Lancashire and brothers-in-law William Boardman and William Bashall saw an opportunity and grabbed it by building their huge spinning and weaving mill on a green field site adjacent to the new railway line in which they both had shares. The siting of the Farington mill was unusual in that almost all other cotton mills in Lancashire were built in already established towns with a ready workforce nearby but in Farington there was only a scattering of farmsteads and cottages and a mill without a workforce doesn't work.

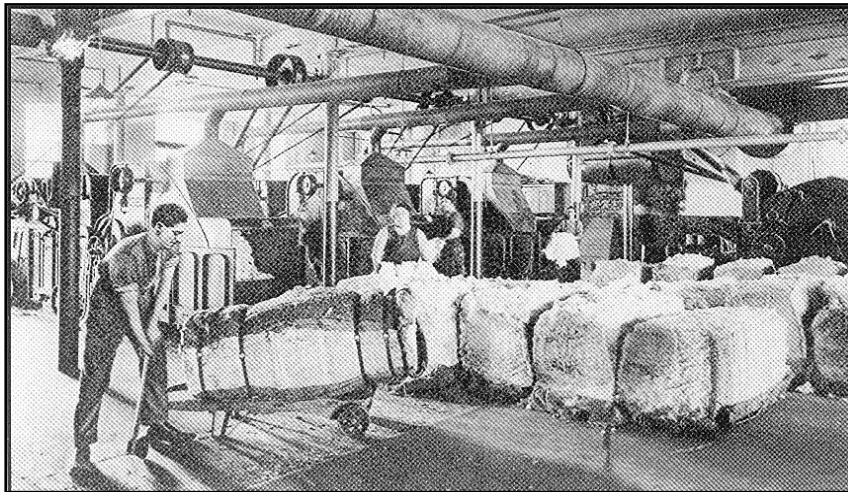
Bashall & Boardman set about building new houses for their prospective employees. The first were in Mill Street (and when they were built the terrace of 59 houses was the longest terrace in the country). After Mill Street came Spring Gardens, East Street and School Street - a total of 220 small houses. It is easy to see how excited people were at the prospect of working in the new mill and having a lovely new house to live in. There was no shortage of people wanting to come to Farington to work and live in the rapidly developing new village.

The two mill owners, very aware of their responsibilities to their workforce and tenants, took a pride in their new village. In addition to the mill and the houses, they also built a new school, a public house: the Rose & Crown, and shops. The houses they built all received a coat of black and white paint every year.

By 1860 there was a busy, successful mill, providing employment for some 1000 people, many of them living in lovely new homes with free, good quality, education for their children, a village pub and shops but it was still a rural area with good clean air. Altogether a very happy and thriving place, but something was about to change all that happiness.

The Cotton Famine

Most people think it was the American Civil War that caused the Cotton Famine, which is partly true, but at the beginning it was more to do with the over-stocked conditions of the markets, and speculation which had forced up the price of cotton. It had been forecast for some years that when the Democratic Party at the White House was replaced by the Republican Party the southern states would leave the Union and civil war might break out in the United States. Lancashire, dependent on the southern states for its cotton, ignored the warnings. The Confederacy embargo on the export of cotton to countries that did not recognise the southern states, and then the blockade imposed by the Union, eventually totally stopped the flow of cotton to Lancashire resulting in what is often referred to as the 'Lancashire Cotton Famine'.



Interior of a working cotton mill

In England the first signs of distress began appearing in November 1861 and then the worst happened - almost all Lancashire mills were closed and the most severe period of depression ever experienced in the textile industry began.

Bashall and Boardman had kept Farington mill going as long as they could on existing stocks, but from the surviving account books we know that the mill eventually closed on 7th September 1862, and did not open again until 3rd May 1864.

During the cotton famine Lancashire mill workers went from being some of the most prosperous workers in Britain to being the most impoverished. People's meagre savings soon dwindled to nothing and valuables and possessions were sold in desperate attempts to survive. The village was in crisis.

Bashall and Boardman, Farington's benevolent mill owners, did all they could to relieve the situation of their workforce. They allowed them to live rent free (£4090 of rent was excused) and they distributed food and fuel to the value of £2100, a total amount of financial relief of £6190. In addition they established a food kitchen where nutritious soup was dispensed daily to all hands; women and girls were given sewing and cookery lessons; and an industrial school was set up where children and young men were sent to further their education. The school operated four nights a week from seven o'clock until nine.

Reports of the cotton famine years which appeared in many of the daily newspapers of the time have survived, which means we have a number of first hand accounts.

The *Preston Chronicle* reported that Farington was the worst affected township in Lancashire and that a Relief Fund was started with a cheque for £40 from the Lord Mayor of Manchester's Relief Fund. The Farington fund was administered by the vicar, the Reverend Henry Power.

Unfortunately, the winter of 1862 to 1863 was a very bad one and on 24th January 1863 the *Preston Chronicle* reported:

At present at Farington, 1,700 persons are in receipt of relief. The Committee gives tickets, which are exchanged for provisions at the shops in the village. They also make grants of bedding, clothing etc. including:

120 Shawls	500 pairs of socks
120 coats, vests and trousers	500 shirts
350 flannel singlets	500 pairs of shoes

Also 300 pairs of boots and shoes have been repaired.

The then Earl of Derby described the situation as 'the greatest calamity of modern times'.

Parish registers show evidence of a different sort of affect of the famine on Farington people: marriages were down by 34%, and baptisms dropped by some 10%, but burials rose by 16%.

It is really difficult for us today to fully appreciate just what desperate times the people of Farington experienced during the two years of the cotton famine, thankfully, none of us knows real hunger, or desperate cold in our every day lives.

When the first wagon of American cotton arrived in Farington on Thursday, 28th April, 1864, the heartfelt relief and rejoicing was truly enormous. The following is an extract from Edwin Waugh's report in the *Manchester Examiner & Times* newspaper giving an eye witness account of this event:

At length the bright rift in the overhanging clouds grew wider from day to day, and a flutter of delight ran through the village on Wednesday, 27th April 1864 when a rumour came that some wagons of cotton were on their way from Liverpool. Old and young were eagerly on the look-out through the whole of the day. Every train that came up was carefully scanned, and there were many anxious looks into the railway siding by the mill for the promised wagons. Night came, however, but there came no cotton. The jubilant thrill of the morning began to die out, and there was a gloomy relapse by many a cottage fire as darkness closed over the anxious village.

The morning of the 28th April 1864 dawned upon the green landscape around Farington from an unclouded sky. It was during the forenoon of that day that two wagons of cotton arrived at last, consigned to the Farington Mill. The news of their arrival ran like wildfire through the village.

The shouts and acclamations of the spectators at once announced to the inhabitants the glad tidings. Soon the village began to evince signs of rejoicing, and union jacks, flags, shawls etc. were hung gaily out of almost every house.

About one o'clock a large number of women, preceded by music, went down to the railway siding, and with hearty vigour pushed the wagons with their welcome freight up the steep incline into the factory yard. When the tarpaulin sheet was torn off and the

bales of cotton were thrown upon the ground, the poor women fondled them tenderly and kissed them again and again, weeping because their hearts were full.

This done, the crowd numbering some hundreds, sang the Doxology to the glorious 'Old Hundred' tune. They then gave many rounds of the most hearty cheers, which were heard far away. Demonstrations of joy and thankfulness were most



The 12 foot shuttle and cotton reel seating

enthusiastically carried out till a late hour in the night, the lively strains of a brass band harmoniously adding to the hilarity of the occasion.

Those who supposed that these operatives would not gladly embrace the opportunity of once more 'earning their bread by the sweat of their brows' should have seen the tears of gratitude that rolled down the cheeks of many of them as they sang 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow'. Many were too full to sing.

The Garden

In 2011 a small group of Farington residents, realising that 2012 would be the 150th anniversary of the start of the cotton famine crisis in the village, decided that it would be a good idea to do something to commemorate the occasion in an appropriate user-friendly and practical way.

It was quickly decided that this would be a good opportunity to tidy up a neglected piece of land on the corner of Mill Street and Stanifield Lane which was an especially appropriate site as Farington Mill had been built at the bottom end of Mill Street.

After a number of consultation sessions with the residents of Farington, and particularly with the pupils at Farington County Primary School, it was agreed that this area needed regeneration and that we would make it into an attractive commemorative community garden.

Removing the huge old cherry tree which had dominated the area, the broken unsightly tarmac and bags and bags full of rubbish, was a mammoth task - but nothing was wasted. The tree was shredded and used as mulch around the Borough; the tarmac was used in the foundations of a new road development; the original stone setts were all salvaged for re-use in the new garden and the rather neglected old rose bushes were given to local residents.

Those hard times are now remembered in an appropriate and imaginative way: a 12-foot

replica shuttle and seats in the form of old cotton reels are the focal point of the new garden; the village's nineteenth century origins and the cotton mill are recorded on the newly installed history board; and a time capsule with hundreds of contributions from Farington residents has been buried in the area. A new garden has been planted (and will be tended by a Farington resident) and the sturdy new bench provides a comfortable place to sit and remember, to sit and wait for a bus, or just to sit.

With support and encouragement from South Ribble Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire Environment Fund the project eventually happened, and the Farington Mill Garden was officially opened at a moving dedication service in October, 2012, which included the singing of the Doxology¹ just as it had been sung by the relieved villagers all those years ago.

The new garden is a huge success and the Mayor of South Ribble, Councillor Colin Clark, commented: 'This is an excellent project and a really imaginative way to turn a neglected piece of land into something which both represents the community and will be enjoyed by many people.'

So popular has the transformation of the area and the new garden become that it was entered for two awards:

The first award, a national one organised by the *Local Government News* magazine, recognises best practice and innovation in street design schemes across the United Kingdom. The garden was named runner-up in the 'Community-led design' section. (The winners were in the London Borough of Lambeth).

The second award, the annual English Heritage 'Angel Awards', founded by Andrew Lloyd Webber and supported by the *Telegraph*, celebrates the efforts of local people who have saved historic buildings and places.

The cotton famine crisis is well and truly over but certainly not forgotten.

Editor:

Our entry, sadly, was not shortlisted, although it more than adequately covered all the criteria required, namely:

Need - was the site at risk and in need of rescue?

Completeness - is the rescue project well underway or complete?

Passion - what made the 'Angel' get involved in the project? Why does the rescue mean so much to those involved in the project? What made you continue in the face of adversity?

Perseverance - what challenges had to be overcome? Did you suffer any setbacks?

Legacy - how has the project contributed to the future of the site? Have any new skills been learnt or shared?

Imagination - What creative solutions were considered/explored or adopted as part of the project? Was there anything unique about the way you tackled the rescue?

Let us hope that this little corner of Farington, as Andrew Lloyd Webber said of the finalist entries, 'will uplift and enlighten all who come across it and it will be cherished by the community for generations to come'.

THE FARINGTON COMMEMORATIVE GARDEN



Leyland Motors' Athletic Section

Part Two: The Struggle to Survive

Edward Almond

In 1954, the Leyland Motors' Social and Athletic Club's Annual General Meeting revealed a loss of over £800 for all its activities and even though the athletic section was inactive, it had a deficit due to affiliation fees and depreciation of equipment. If the section was dissolved, which would require a special meeting, it would only save £2 12s 6d. Mr. S. Baybutt, a Council member, believed that 'far more than this amount would be gained if the section remained open to draw members'.

By the end of the year, there was no improvement and Mr. Malley, the Secretary-Manager of LMSAC, wrote to the Lancashire County Amateur Athletics Association: 'I regret to inform you that our Amateur Athletic Section is inactive at the moment, I must ask you, therefore, to suspend our membership of the Association until such time as there is a renewal of interest.' The following July the club resigned from the Northern Counties Athletic Association.

A saviour was at hand. In October, 1955, John Burns wrote to Mr. Malley: 'I recently organised a trip to Manchester to see the International match and on the return journey discussed with a number of active runners the possibility of reviving our section. A number expressed a willingness and desire to participate.'

A reply was quickly forthcoming: 'For some reason that is difficult to pinpoint, interest in this form of sport waned and only last year two attempts were made to revive the interest. Meetings were called and letters were sent out to individuals notifying of this fact but attendances were very discouraging'.

Despite this, a meeting was called in November 1955 'to consider ways and means of reviving the activities of the AA Section'. There was a warning from the LMSAC Council that 'it can only be maintained by a one hundred per cent effort of all concerned. Officials will be required and their task will be made so much lighter if they receive the full cooperation of the members'.

A provisional committee was formed with John Burns as the Honorary Secretary and one of his first tasks was to affiliate with the various athletic associations. However, one plan to increase members by relaxing the rules regarding associated members; i.e. non-Leyland Motors employees, met with opposition. Mr. Malley replied: 'it is obvious that if we were to allow an influx of such members in one section, other sections of the club would expect the same consideration and this would lead to difficulties'. The Council hoped and preferred that apprentices be encouraged to join.

It did not happen. One would have thought that the interest created by Roger Bannister's four minute mile and the success of Chris Chataway and Gordon Pirie in the mid-nineteen-fifties would have sparked a willingness to join a club to participate and emulate their heroes. The resistance to associate members was unfortunate and had it not eventually been changed, the club would not have functioned in the nineteen-sixties without them. The athletic section struggled to find committee members but associated members were excluded.

The provisional committee acted swiftly and in February, 1956, staged a Ribblesdale CC league race starting on the Mayfield with 'a spiked course of two mile laps planned from there'.

On 22nd March, 1956, a new Athletics Section Committee was formed with J. Nicholas (Chairman), J. Burns (Hon. Secretary), A. Rydings, E. Sharp, G. Lamb, A. Lowe, J. Walmsley

and L. Almond. A mixture of experience and youth.

Difficulties immediately arose regarding second claim members as several former members of LMSAC had joined other local clubs when the section was inactive. This was resolved in favour of the revised club and allowed Lamb and Dick Ditchfield to compete as first claim members of LMSAC instead of Lancashire Walking Club.

Lamb had a reputation as a specialist long-distance walker, especially in the Manchester to Blackpool (51¾ miles), and his experience combined with that of Ditchfield, Joe Billington and Eddie Sharp formed the nucleus of a new walking team. Races were held at Bradford, Sutton Macclesfield and Leicester; however, their first success came when finishing six members in the Manchester to Blackpool Walk. Lamb was third and Burns was third novice.

The 1956 season finished with Leyland hosting the H. S. Finney Trophy Race, the winner being the future international runner Gerry North of Blackpool.

Leyland had gained a reputation for staging events. Efficient organisation and excellent facilities at the LMSAC pavilion were key factors in helping Leyland stage its first national athletic competition: the Race Walking Association's 50 kilometre championship on 15th June. The race was won by future Olympic champion, Don Thompson.



Mr. H. Spurrier starting the 1957 National 50 Km Walk

Running was not neglected and the Lancashire CC Championships were staged on Worden Park in January, 1958. Walking was the mainstay of the club and events were held locally but also in Birmingham, Sutton Macclesfield, Leicester and Bradford. The most rewarding race was, again, the Manchester to Blackpool when the team did magnificently in finishing second and John Robinson winning the first novice prize. Numbers at the club were still small and several members became adept at combining running and walking.

The next team success was a third place in the Northern 10 miles Junior Walk at Wigan then, in July, Joe Derrick became the first walker in Leyland Motors' colours to walk 100 miles in under twenty-four hours during the race from London to Brighton and back.

In the late 1950s, LMSAC relaxed the rules relating to associate members but not many took advantage of the change. During the 1950s I have identified over forty athletes who took



G. Lamb, A. Dawber, E. Sharp, J. Billington, D. Lowe, J. Derrick, J. Burns, J. Robinson,

part in track and field, cross-country, road running and walking.

The club experienced difficulties in making up full teams in the running events. One associate member, Kenny Clark, who worked at Iddon Brothers, showed early promise winning the club's Christmas Walk Handicap after a mere three competitive walks, additionally, he won the novice prize in the 1961 Manchester to Blackpool race aged just nineteen.

Of the fifteen runners representing the club during 1961, six were associate members.

Leyland played host in the early 1960s to several cross-country events: the Mid Lincs, the Finney Trophy and the West Lancashire Championships. There was no individual success but in the junior team, placed third in the West Lancashire in 1963, were three associate members: Arnold Nelson, Rodney Flanagan and Kenny Clark, the fourth member of the team was Bill Lucas.

The week before that race, the walking section gained third place in the Northern 10 miles Junior race held in snowy conditions in Sheffield. The team members were: Brian Howarth, Joe Billington, Joe Derrick and Eddie Almond.

In the previous year, 1962, Rodney Flanagan had won the novice prize in the Manchester to Blackpool race when the team, made up of Howarth, Derrick, Billington and Dave Adams, finished third. At the Lancashire Track and Field championships, Frank Wilson took third place in the hop, step and jump. Billington and Derrick represented Britain in the Nijmegen Four Day Marches (34 miles each day!) Howarth and Billington both joined the Centurion Club (100 miles in 24 hours).

Probably, 1963 was the best season for all three athletic disciplines, track and field, running



Finney Cup CC Junior Team - 1962
E Almond, D Adams, K Clark, W Lucas, B Keogh



Mid Lancs CC - 1962
E Almond, K Clark, B Keogh, J Dawber, J Derrick, R Oates

and walking. In May, the team finished third in the Open Bradford 50 kilometre Walk and also in the Northern 50 kilometre Championship, held concurrently: (Howarth, Flanagan, Almond and Derrick).

Shortly afterwards, seven members competed in the Lancashire Track and Field Championships at the newly-opened track at Blackpool. The track, which had not settled, was still soft cinders. Frank Hunt was third in the junior shot putt, Frank Wilson was second in the pole vault, third in the hop, step and jump and a member of the 4 x 110 yard relay which finished third. Eddie Almond was second in the 440 yard hurdles and also ran in the relay with Wilson, Tom Davies and Stuart Southworth.

In the Kendal 5-miles Yacht Handicap, so-called because runners start at different times and try to catch those in front, Arnold Nelson was the winner and, ably assisted by Howarth, Flanagan and Benny Keogh, won the team race. Significantly, the team would still have won based on actual times.

In the Bradford Walk in 1964, the team repeated their third team position in the open race. The Northern Championship was held late at Morecambe on a very wet afternoon and Leyland were unable to finish a team.



Christmas CC Handicap - 1964

E. Almond, A. Curry, A. Nelson, B. Howarth, B. Salmon, J. Derrick, J. Dawber, J. Ashworth, R. Oates, E. Sharp, (front) J. Billington, J. Nicholas

Arnold Nelson, having changed his employment as a fireman for British Rail, was able to attend more regularly and, without doubt, was the club's leading runner. In December 1964 he achieved the most amazing run ever seen in Leyland in winning the club's Christmas Cross Country Handicap Run in an astonishing 21 minutes 13 seconds, four minutes faster than the previous year's winner: (read 'Arnold's Day of Days', *Lailand Chronicle* No. 43, 1999). He later turned to race walking and finished second in the two-mile walk at the Lancashire Track and Field Championship in 1965.

The club was still struggling for members, sadly, any newcomers only stayed for two or



Northern 50 Km 1964
J. Billington, E. Sharp, E. Almond, F. Howarth, B. Howarth

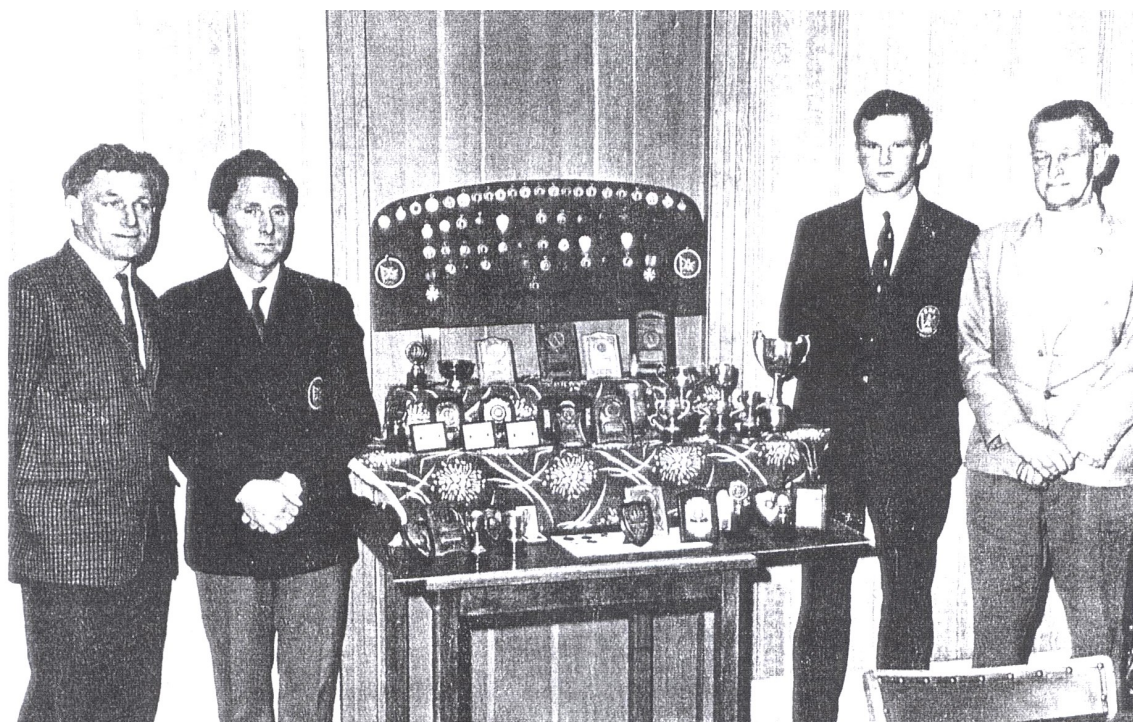
three seasons. During the 1966-67 season, members competed in Blackpool, Blackburn, Waterloo, Kendal, Preston, Clayton-le-Moors, Bolton, Eccles, Morecambe and Horwich. However, a combination of injury, marriage, family commitments, career, loss of interest and a dearth of fresh blood, resulted in the running section folding after the Blackpool Road Relay race. The walking section continued until its final race, the Leicester to Skegness 100 miles, in 1968 when none of the club athletes was able to finish. During the 1960s, 51 athletes have been identified as representing the club.

Two years were to elapse before Leyland Motors Athletic Club reappeared on the athletics scene, albeit in a different guise; from a multi-discipline club it became a specialist walking club. The revival was due to the arrival of Ivor Perceval.

Ivor Perceval began employment at Leyland Motors in 1970 after leaving the police force. Ivor had had considerable success with Preston Harriers and Lancashire Walking Club, was a Centurion and had represented Britain in the Nijmegen Marches. He was also a motivator.

Combining the experience of Derrick, Howarth, Billington and Sharp with an influx of new blood, especially Eric Crompton and John Ashton, the club had a varied and packed competitive programme. Races in Manchester, Kirby, Leicester (Crompton first novice), Sheffield, Birmingham, Manchester to Blackpool (Ashton first novice), Gomersall (Charles Lamb first novice).

In 1971, Crompton won his first race just two days after representing Lancashire over ten



J. Billington, J. Derrick, I. Perceval, E. Sharp

miles at Redditch. He later had the distinction of finishing third in the Bradford 50 kilometre race which incorporated the Northern Championship but because the first two finishers had not entered the Open Race he was declared the winner! His time in the Essex Open 50 kilometre at Basildon, when finishing tenth, placed him twentieth in the United Kingdom ranking list for the year. Only Jack Higginson, Senior; Jack Higginson, Junior; Stan Oldham and George Lamb had been ranked higher. He then proceeded to win the Isle of Man 37 miles (on the TT course) leading from start to finish.

In 1972, the team began making their mark. In the Northern Senior 10 Miles, they finished third. This was followed by another third team place at Sutton Coldfield over twenty miles in a close competition: First: Enfield, 41 points; second, Royal Sutton Coldfield, 42 points and third, Leyland Motors, 46 points. Another third team prize in the Bradford Open 50 kilometre and second team in the Northern, held in conjunction, confirmed Leyland's position in long-distance walking.

The greatest achievement was reserved for the Manchester to Blackpool race when, with Crompton third, Howarth sixth, Perceval ninth and Ashton thirteenth, they won the team race. Bill Maxwell finished in the same time as Ashton but was awarded fourteenth place and missed out on a medal.

Another team success was in the Dundee to Perth 22 miles in July with Crompton second, Terry Edmundson fourth, Maxwell sixth and Ashton seventh. Edmundson later joined Chorley AC and changed events when he took part in ultra-distance running eventually becoming British record holder over twenty-four hours.

At Morecambe, over 18 kilometres, Crompton, third, and Howarth, sixth, helped Leyland win the team race. Significantly, the event had been organised by John Burns who had revived the club in 1955 and who held a prominent position in Northern walking circles and later became President of the NCRWA.



E. Sharp, J. Billington, ?, B. Howarth, I. Perceval, C. Lamb, J. Ashton, D. Lamb, ?, A.

A new event on the calendar was introduced in July 1972: a relay race of 80 kilometres between Blackpool and Stretford and was probably the first of its kind in Britain. Leyland Motors entered two teams of five for stages of 20km, 15km, 10km, 15km and 20km. The 'A' team of Crompton, Maxwell, Ashton, George Lamb and Howarth, finished third in 7 hours, 17 minutes and 58 seconds. The 'B' team were seventh in 8 hours and 12 seconds.

It wasn't just the seniors who were achieving success, Shaun Maxwell, son of Bill, had finished second in the under 13s one-mile in the schools' championship in 1971. A year later, he was again second in the boys' two-miles at Sheffield behind Peter Perceval (son of Ivor). In the youths' two-miles, Bernard Livingstone was third. Livingstone repeated his third place at Bradford in January, 1973, when Perceval and Maxwell were relegated to second and third places.

In the spring of 1973, Leyland Motors played hosts to another National Walking Championship, the 10 Miles, incorporating the inter-counties race. There were 340 entries, including seven from Leyland with Ashton, Howarth and Crompton representing Lancashire. Unfortunately, Perceval had left the club and was competing for Lancashire Walking Club.

Crompton was hungry for competition and possibly raced too frequently but he was still competing. Young Maxwell was also making his presence felt. In April, he was third in the boys' 1¾ miles at Battersea Park and at Stretford over 2 kilometres finished only fourteen seconds behind Crompton. He also won the Lancashire Schools 3 kilometres at Accrington with Philip Perceval third.

Meanwhile, the team finished third in the Northern Counties 20-Miles. In the TT race, Crompton was second and helped the team to win by two points. Ashton was seventh and Edmundson tenth.

Showing first-class speed, Crompton covered 7¾ miles in a one hour race at Basildon. That same week-end, Bill Maxwell finished eighth on the Bristol 100-miles to become Leyland Motors fifth Centurion. Bill was a bricklayer by trade, who later suffered with heart problems but when Leyland Motors AC ceased, he took part in long distance charity walks including the gruelling walk from John O'Groats to Land's End.

The 1974 New Year opened early with two victories at Chipping Sodbury. Crompton won the 10-miles and young Maxwell the boys' 3 kilometres. In the longer race, the team were third. In February, Ashton was third in the Lancashire 15 kilometres where Crompton was disqualified. April saw Maxwell win by a huge forty-seven seconds in the Greyfriars 3 kilometre and he maintained his superb form by establishing a British best performance for his age group over 10 kilometres at Blackburn when he was timed in 51 minutes 44 seconds. This performance stood the test of time and is still a best performance thirty years later!

Crompton's winning ways had not gone un-noticed and in June, 1974, he was rewarded with a British vest against France over 30 kilometres. In hot conditions, he finished in second place but ahead of the French competitors. At the end of the year he was seventeenth over 10 kilometres and eighteenth at 3 kilometres in the British rankings.

Maxwell continued his winning ways in the South at Brighton, Basildon and Hendon.

1975 saw the end of Leyland Motors Athletic Club. Group training sessions were becoming less frequent and some of the veterans had retired but, more importantly, there was no new blood despite the success of Crompton and Maxwell to inspire youngsters. Maxwell was drawn to the South and he eventually uprooted himself and joined Belgrave Harriers. Crompton moved clubs and joined Lancashire Walking Club.

It was the end of an era. A club that was founded in 1927 in a town full of talented athletes but with little or no tradition had survived but not out-lived Leyland Motors. It was a club of the twentieth century. There were ups and downs, successes and failures, unfulfilled dreams and some great performances for a club with no special facilities for track and field athletics. The club had met with success in Track and Field, Cross-Country and Walking in a period of less than fifty years.

During the seventies, only twenty-six walkers have been identified. Of all who were members during the club's existence, only *one* remains active in athletics and only in veteran events.



...Edward Almond remains active in athletics... in veteran events

Street Life

David Harrison

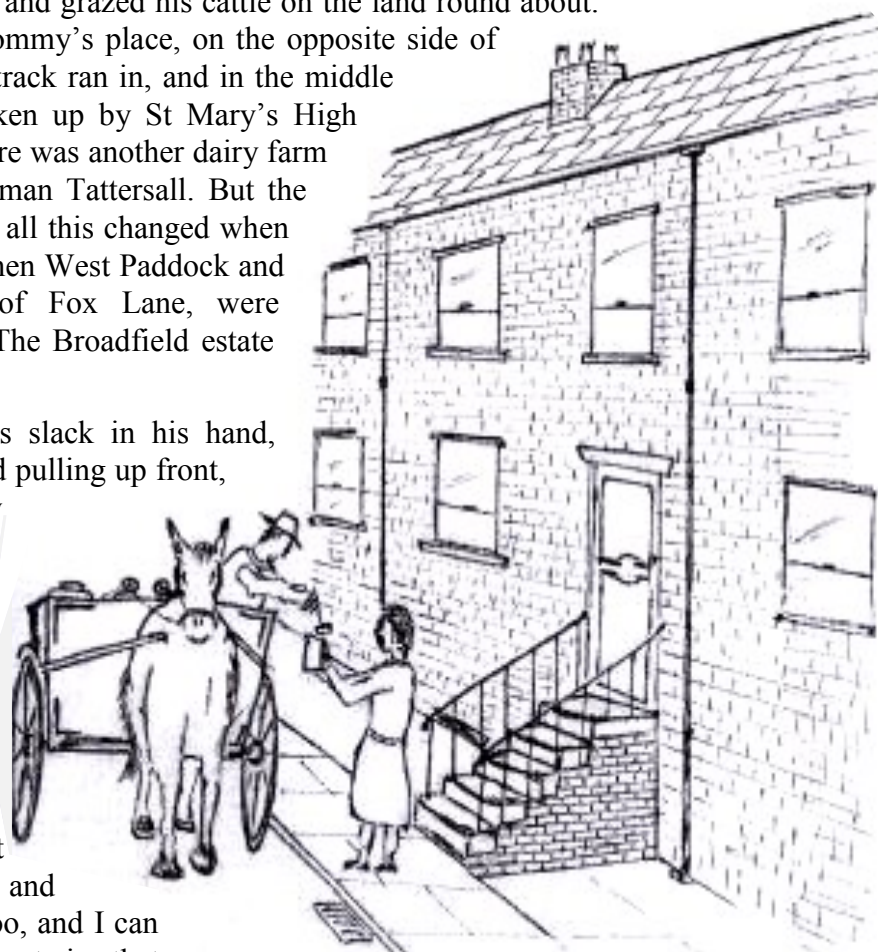
It places my time in the span of years, whenever I happen to think of this, that when night came on the day I was born, the Royal Air Force flew two hundred and eighty-six Lancasters into the Rhur and bombed Duisburg; that, in bitter cold, American infantry were having a hard time of it in the Ardennes forest, in Belgium, and that, within a few months, out across the Pacific, the skies above Japan would be lit with a light brighter than a thousand suns. Shortly after these things had ceased, I began to sit up and watch the show go on and the world go round in my early years growing up in one of the 'step houses' at the top end of Fox Lane, next to Leyland Cross.

Against the rush and clamour of the street traffic on Fox Lane now, whatever came up on wheels then was quite likely to be a one horse-power affair - one real horse, all clomping hooves and ringing harness with a patient, reliable, disposition and quiet ways. And once the horse and cart had satisfied the purpose and business of being there, and had disappeared around the Cross, nothing else might come along for half an hour or maybe longer.

One of the first in the day to come up the lane and into the street would be Tommy Holden, the milkman. It is perhaps an incredible thing to ponder, but close to where West Paddock now joins Fox Lane, on that side of the road, and in the time when all the area down there, in a swathe from the park, right across to the Stanning's bleachworks, was open fields. Tommy Holden had a dairy farm and grazed his cattle on the land round about.

Across the road from Tommy's place, on the opposite side of Fox Lane, an entry and track ran in, and in the middle of what is now land taken up by St Mary's High School playing fields there was another dairy farm occupied by farmer Norman Tattersall. But the order and rural aspect of all this changed when firstly Wade Hall land, then West Paddock and the Seven Stars end of Fox Lane, were developed for housing. The Broadfield estate was still being built.

Tommy Holden, reins slack in his hand, and Dolly, in harness and pulling up front, would appear in the early morning with a cartful of steel milk kits and make their way up the street from customer to customer. Instead of the usual, perhaps universal, khaki 'slop' on overall, Tommy would wear a brown felt trilby and suit, and sometimes a waistcoat too, and I can remember thinking once or twice that perhaps he had actually been on his way to do other work, when some



TOMMY AND DOLLY WITH THE MILK

David Harrison

emergency or other had cropped up and he had been asked to take over the milk cart and didn't have time to find an overall. The cart, or trap, and everything about it, from the light paintwork to the shapely wheel spokes, the steel railings on the edges of the body panels, especially scrolled loops and rings on the front board, where the reins threaded through, and perhaps, above all, the graceful arching of the mudguards, had a handsome appearance, and seemed to mark it out for a higher purpose than delivering milk.

The milk itself was dispensed by ladle, straight out of the kits in the back of the cart, and each of Tommy's customers had a jug to collect it which held a pint measure or more. The one my mother had was ancient, the white glaze had fine cracks all over it and there was an oval panel on one side which had an out of focus picture of a horse's head in it. The jug was taken to the front door as Tommy and Dolly pulled up outside. Dolly had got to know which was our house because there was always a crust of bread for her there and no sooner had she recognised my mother at the front door than she would come clattering up the steps and get halfway before the cart's shafts would jam in the wrought iron railings and stop further progress. While my mother was talking to Tommy, and having the jug filled, I would very gingerly offer Dolly the crust on the flat of my hand - always anxious about those chomping great teeth of hers, jingling and ringing against the bit in her mouth. Then Tommy would click his tongue, Dolly would back up down the steps and they would be off. Dolly was intelligent. With Tommy and a cart laden with milk kits up behind, she would need no convincing about Fox Lane being the first gradient, the first rise in the land, from the sea and that the home going run was something to look forward to.

If Tommy Holden had any competition or would have thought of it as such, it came from James Deacon's farm 'up Runshaw', his place being opposite the public house which was always known as 'old Jerry's' on the road from Runshaw to the Roe Moor and Ecclestone..

The two carts were often in the street at the same time, but while Tommy operated alone, Jim Deacon had his sister, Annie, to assist and help him. Annie wore a beret, always pulled down squarely over her eyes and ears and she never seemed to get out of the cart. James, on the other hand, never seemed to be in it but was rather here and there and everywhere, hailing people up and down the street and relishing being in town. When Mr. Deacon came in from 'up Runshaw' everyone knew about it. The Cross was his stage, everyone in that locality his audience and his voice, good natured and good humoured, would fill the place.

For a time, my father used to keep hens in the back plot behind our house at number 22, Fox Lane, where a large earth mound now marks the edge of Tesco's car park. This was a time when all the land that is now a leisure centre, swimming baths, car park and petrol station, stretching to and running alongside the old Cow Lane that led to the bleachworks, was a pleasing patchwork of allotments that in the summertime fairly shone and buzzed with colour and activity. Our plot adjoined the allotments on the south side. It was Jock Neilson who supplied us with the hen food. Jock was a provender merchant with premises on Leyland Lane and, as with the milk, his deliveries were made by horse and cart, this time a flatbed with all the sacks of provender packed neatly on the back. He was never alone. Always sat up there beside him on the front of the cart was a quiet little dog, Jock's constant companion. Jock only had one eye - the other was a complete blank, but he had a permanent smile on his face and a friendly disposition. The other thing I remember about him now, something that picked him out when you saw him coming from a distance, was that he rode the cart in a particular way - sat on the left hand side, at the front, he would drape his left leg over the side whilst perching on the other, crooked beneath him.

This didn't happen all that often, but occasionally, and very quietly, their appearance

always somehow a surprise, the cockle sellers would arrive up Fox Lane from Southport; a quaint little couple, husband and wife and dressed in black. The pony and trap they drove were dainty, a perfect set, and the cockles, mussels and shrimps were carried in covered basins in the back behind them.

Days would come, usually in the summer, when Number 22 would tremble and shake, almost imperceptibly at first, but gradually with more and more violence to it. The ornaments on the mantelpiece in the front room (the 'parlour') would begin to vibrate and bobble, and soon start moving; including an old brass gear knob boss that had years' ago come from 'the motors'. It had been milled around the sides to give it a decorative touch and a penny piece let into its base to enable it to serve as a match holder. This bumping and crashing and thumping outside confirmed the arrival of the town's steamroller in the street. This was an event that seemed to make everyone in the house short-tempered; in a way, perhaps, because we feared, without comment but seriously nonetheless, that some damage was going to be caused, I don't know.

When not out and about pounding the town's roads and making us anxious, the steamroller was kept in a shed in the old council yard, close to where the new library, next to the magistrates' court is now, and a Mr. Cooper was master of it. Astride this juggernaut, spinning away at the steering wheel with one hand whilst hauling away at some lever or other wrapped in an oily rag with the other, and boiler-suited, neb-capped and withal giving the appearance of having been perhaps dipped in black-lead, he seemed a moving reciprocating part of the machine itself. About half-past five of a work day evening, I would often see him again, going home and bowling round the Cross and then down the street with all the rest of that contingent of Leyland's workforce hell bent and bound for the west into the setting sun.

Mr. Cooper rode an old Francis Barnett motor bike; one that looked completely black, but completely full of character, from the rear of which a great jet, gusting into a plume, of black smoke issued which seemed to hang in the street for some time after he had passed and which betokened possible mechanical trouble. He wore a sort of 'Biggles-type' leather helmet (real crash helmets were for cissies in those days), an old army haversack round his shoulders, and sat so low on the machine as to be barely able to peer above the front wheel whilst gripping the handlebar with a determined look. I feared sparks would fly off the road if the seat had been just that bit lower. Mr. Cooper and his motorbike was just one of that great cavalcade, that stampede of pushbikes, motor-bikes, cars and tired and weary old Leyland buses crammed with the 'motors' workforce that went careering down Fox Lane in the late afternoons of the days when we made something in this town, and then, in the early mornings, came back again.

I shouldn't hesitate to ponder that this might be imagination, because it did happen, but it is incredible to think now, after the passing years that have changed so much, that in my time cattle used to be herded at Leyland Cross and into Fox Lane. Worden Close, off Worden Lane, occupies a former meadow and pasture beginning the area I grew up to know as 'Cross's Fields', this one being bordered by the cricket field on the west, the park boundary on the south and Worden Lane to the east. Jim Lord was a master butcher with a shop and slaughterhouse at the top of Fox Lane that hasn't existed for many years now, and he grazed cattle on Cross's Fields and, I believe, on Worden Park. As necessary, the cattle were taken off the grazing and led up Worden Lane into Fox Lane and then to the slaughterhouse behind the his shop.

The Leyland Reservoir

Peter Houghton

By the time you read, this another part of Leyland's heritage will have gone (although it is actually situated in Clayton-le-Woods). The building of the Leyland Reservoir in 1884 with its connecting pipework to Leyland provided the people of Leyland with water for the next fifty-six years until it was replaced by a much larger facility. It was still being used as a backup facility as late as 1980 only being decommissioned in 1992.

The site of the underground reservoir, underground, as the water was drinking water and therefore had to be safeguarded against contamination, has been bought by Kingswood Homes who have arranged, with the assistance of the Chorley Historical & Archeological Society, for the site to be opened to the public from 19th October to 3rd November. In the first week, over 8000 visitors went down into the reservoir.

The reservoir has a capacity of 300,000 gallons which was a good figure for the 1880s, though, as the details of the opening ceremony showed, the local industrialists were very keen on the scheme, in fact the first named is my old friend, John Stanning, whose use of every river and stream in Leyland for the bleaching process would have at certain times needed back-up from the domestic supply.

The water was pumped up from the wells by the Pumping Station, which can still be seen on Preston Road, up to the reservoir where it was stored until required. It was then piped to Leyland under gravity, the drop down to the River Lostock valley easily out-weighting the rise on the other side of the valley and then down to Leyland following the line of Lancaster Lane. The original pipes can still be seen where the river is crossed at the bottom of Sheep Hill.



The Pumping Station on Preston Road



The above photograph was taken by Boyd Harris, who, besides being a member of the Chorley Historical & Archaeological Society, also used to work for United Utilities. When Doreen and myself visited on Saturday we took many photographs, some of which we have copied here. There are more to be seen on the Chorley Historical website including two Youtube films see <http://www.chorleyhistorysociety.co.uk/>.

The arch through which you enter is shown below.





The inlet and outlet valves from the pumps and then out to the houses of Leyland.

As the whole building is brick-lined, it would be interesting to know where the bricks were made. There were brick manufacturers locally at both Withnell and Whittle as well as the Accrington brick for which Lancashire is famous. I have sent pictures of the various bricks, two are shown below, to the British Brick Society who I hope can shed some light on the building's construction material.



Gwen Buckley's Scrapbooks

Edward Almond



When Gwen Buckley moved to a care home she donated a box containing books, postcards and scrapbooks to the Historical Society. She had been a member for a number of years and had served on the Committee since 1981 and was made a Life Member in 1991.

The scrapbooks contain cuttings from local papers and the earliest dates from 1926 and is a picture from the *Preston Guardian* with the heading 'Miss Sybil Thorndike Distributes Prizes at Preston'. The location is at the Park School which Gwen attended as she has written on the bottom: 'The year I left school'. It was also her prize day.

The cuttings reflect her interest, family, friends, colleagues, royalty, religion, politics and, of course, history. From such a wide range, I have selected some examples which I find particularly interesting for a variety of reasons. In addition, I have included a look at Leyland news fifty years ago when Gwen retired.

The first cutting of interest concerns the wedding of Esther McKittrick and Denis Manning which took place at Turpin Green Methodist Church on 25th October, 1938. It reports that the organist was Mr R (Bob) Bannister. I interviewed Bob when he replied to a request for information regarding J. S. Oldham, an athlete who worked at Leyland Motors. Bob gave me a valuable insight into athletics training during the nineteen thirties. Like Oldham, Bob was also a high-jumper and, more importantly, he gave life to the initials 'J.S.' - James Stanley.

Not long after that meeting, a chance conversation with a member of the Chipping Historical Society led me to Stan's brother who was a friend. Imagine my surprise when I came across another of Gwen's cuttings entitled 'Policeman Athlete Works at Leyland', and dated 31st August, 1939. James Stanley Oldham, who was stationed at Huntington, near Chester,

married Miss Florence May Bennison at St. Andrew's Church. The cutting mentioned that Stan was the national police high-jump champion, a fact I did not know. The best man was R. Almond, not a relative as far as I know. On the same page was a cutting of Bob Bannister's wedding but, sadly, this was not dated.

Why did Gwen save these newspaper articles? Gwen worked at Leyland Motors and so did Bob and Stan. Did she know them from her workplace or was she a friend of their respective wives?

Another cutting that caught my eye was 'Fire at Worden Hall', dated April 1944 as this occurred within a few days of my birth. The article, taken from the *Leyland Guardian* and subtitled 'Priceless Treasures Destroyed', states that the fire started in an attic during the afternoon and in an incredibly short time the whole of the front of the building was ablaze. Many treasures were lost but quite a number of valuable artefacts had been moved to the cellars of the Hall for protection as this was wartime, and diminishing the consequences of enemy raids and resulting bomb blasts was a priority in our stately homes and museums.

Two local doctors, who attended to me as a child, are also featured in Gwen's collection on the occasion of their respective retirements. The first to retire, in September, 1956, was Dr. Walker Johnson. I remember visiting his surgery at his house, now the Gables Hotel, in the nineteen forties and fifties. He had practised in Leyland for 58 years! A native of Ulnes Walton, he is buried in St James's churchyard in Slater Lane.

The second doctor featured in Gwen's scrapbook is Dr Strachan who was in partnership with Doctor Johnson after serving as his assistant on his arrival in Leyland in 1923. He retired in 1970 after '46 busy years'. I remember him well and I owe my life to him when, as a toddler, I had a convulsion and he placed me in a bath of cold water. Dr Strachan passed away in 1974.

A cutting from the *Evening Post* of 13th October 1966 caught my eye. The heading 'Royal Visit to Leyland Church'. This related to the visit of King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit of Thailand who paid an unannounced visit to Leyland St Mary's Church during a private holiday in Europe, having heard about the church whilst in Liverpool from Captain Edward Parr, who had taken on the role of chief warden when the church had opened in April, 1964. It reminded me of the time when I was one of a number of wardens who guided visitors around the church. We were identified by our purple gowns and another of the wardens at that time was George Houghton, our present chairman's father.

St Mary's church is featured in an aerial view from the *Leyland Guardian* of 17th August 1972, (this would have been my mother's 66th birthday) and the roof is described as 'looking very like an umbrella'. The housing development off Broadfield Walk (the old Cow Lane) had not begun and on the other side of Broadfield House Rest Home can be seen the last remains of Stanning's Bleach Works.

Three other aerial views, printed in the *Leyland Guardian* in December 1972, October 1973 and July 1976, remind me of the Leyland I knew before the advent of mass destruction. One, 'The Hub of Leyland (1923)', has been marked by Gwen naming streets and buildings and the route of the proposed new road linking Towngate to Turpin Green. She did make one error: Vevey Street is identified as Eden Street. We still had the North and South Works, the Leyland Motors' Canteen the LMSAC Club, Brook Mill, Gasometers and the old Wesleyan Chapel on Turpin Green.

The aerial view of 1972 shows Stokes Hall (Church Road), the old prefabs on Eden Street and Sandy Lane with the King George Playing Fields looking like anything but playing fields

with the adjoining waste land following the destruction of property on Towngate, the Public Hall, the Saw Mill, William Street and Eden Street, the old St Mary's School, then Marsden's Garage. The third view from 1976 is accompanied by a plan of the future development of the cross end area of Towngate. There is no Lancastergate, the police station is directly opposite the courthouse and a planned covered market lies between the Masonic Hall and the Co-op building. It was one of the many proposed developments and plans that never saw the light of day.

Let us recall some events of almost fifty years ago (1964) as saved by Gwen:

Mr John Watson of Balcarres Road had returned from a two year stint of teaching in New Zealand. On his return journey he embarked on a tour of the middle-east and Europe and he made the following comment: 'The most strife-torn country was Syria. There was undoubtedly something in the air that led me to believe that a coup was imminent.' Nothing changes!

Nowell Bannister had an article on the proposed demolition of a building on the corner of Hough Lane and Turpin Green to make way for the new roundabout. The building had served as the first office of the Leyland Gas Company, a draper's shop, post office and, finally, the Midland Bank. A photograph is shown of the demolition of the wall on the gasworks corner.

The death of Sir Henry Spurrier, aged 66, in June, 1964, was widely reported and Gwen has saved four cuttings. One report states that between 400 and 500 mourners attended a service of remembrance at St Andrew's Parish Church. Sir Henry had succeeded his father as Managing Director of Leyland Motors Limited in 1942 and was made a Knight Bachelor in 1955. He had retired the previous year due to ill health.

Another death associated with Leyland Motors was that of George Barrand in December. He had been Vehicle Movement Controller and had only just, in July that year, taken over as Secretary Manager of LMSAC. For eight years he served on the local council and had been Chairman the previous year.

The retirement from politics of Sir Winston Churchill is noted and one picture shows him with political leaders of the time who had made the following comments:

Sir Alex Douglas Home	'...one of the most famous personalities this House has ever known.'
Joe Grimmond	'We are here to celebrate one of the greatest careers in our history.'
Harold Wilson	'The man we are honouring is unique.'
Harold Macmillan	'The oldest among us can recall nothing to compare with it and the youngest one among us, however long they live, will never see his like again.'

Would that our present day politicians had the qualities that Emmanuel Shinwell described as '...the brilliance, the courage, the forthrighteousness...'

July, 1964 saw the double wedding of twins Pauline and Jacqueline Parker and their respective partners, Michael Damp and Roy Webster. The ceremony took place at St Ambrose's Church.

Another wedding of particular interest to me was not recorded by Gwen. This was the first wedding at St Mary's new church between Kathleen Almond and Walter Smith on 18th April,

1964. Kathleen is my sister and she and Walter are members of the Society.

A cutting from 5th June's *Leyland Guardian* shows a picture of the Eagle and Child Hotel and informs the reader:

When road-widening takes place in Church Road, Leyland, the Eagle and Child Hotel, the Old Grammar School, Leyland Parish Church and the churchyard will not be affected. All are on certain schedules as ancient buildings and are regarded as landmarks not to be disturbed. It is likely that Church Road will remain a single carriage for the time being and when traffic requirements demand it, it will be increased to a dual carriageway.

I think that the last sentence was either tongue in cheek or a prediction wide of the mark.

It is interesting to note that the price of the *Leyland Guardian* in 1964 was only three pence (3d.) as compared to its present price of 95p (19 shillings) - an increase of 76 fold.

Gwen had several cuttings of herself and most were from after her retirement which took place in October 1964. On that occasion she received presents for her position as Head Tracer. She had worked at Leyland Motors for 37 years.

Gwen lived through ninety per cent of the twentieth century and her scrapbooks give a little, but important, snapshot of seventy-five years of Leyland's social history. Fortunately, Gwen



Gwen's retirement presentation

had the foresight to date her cuttings. One that did not need dating was when Gwen, as oldest parishioner, shared the honour of switching on the lights at St Andrew's Church to mark the start of a new millennium.

I wonder if anyone is recording and preserving cuttings of Leyland in the twenty-first century, if so, none of you will finish the task but it could be completed by your descendants.

Some of Gwen's newspaper cuttings:



FORMER
TEACHER

Saturday August 15th 1964

Chorley bride for Horwich man

The wedding took place at Chorley Parish Church, on Saturday, of Miss Dorothy Mary Anderton Almond, only daughter of Mrs. N. Almond, of 2 Beaconsfield-terrace, Chorley, and Mr. Brian Hampson, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Hampson, of 15 Ansdell-road, Horwich.

The bride is a ladies' hair-dresser and grand-daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Bennison, of Leyland. The bridegroom is a woodwork master.

The Rev. Alan C. Taylor, M.A., officiated at the ceremony and the organist was Mr. Arthur Hargreaves, A.R.C.O.

The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. J. F. Almond, wore a white peau de soie gown with full length train trimmed with guipure lace and elbow length veil. She carried a bouquet of pink and white roses.

She was attended by Miss Dorothy Hampson and Miss Joan Hampson, sisters of the bridegroom, who wore full length dresses of crystal satin in deep rose pink and carried cream tea roses.

The best man was Mr. J. G. Oldham (cousin of the bride) and the groomsmen were Mr. E. Hampson (brother of the bridegroom). The ushers were Mr. J. S. Oldham and Mr. R. Waywell (uncles of the bride).

After the ceremony a reception was held at the Royal Oak Hotel, Chorley, attended by 60 guests.

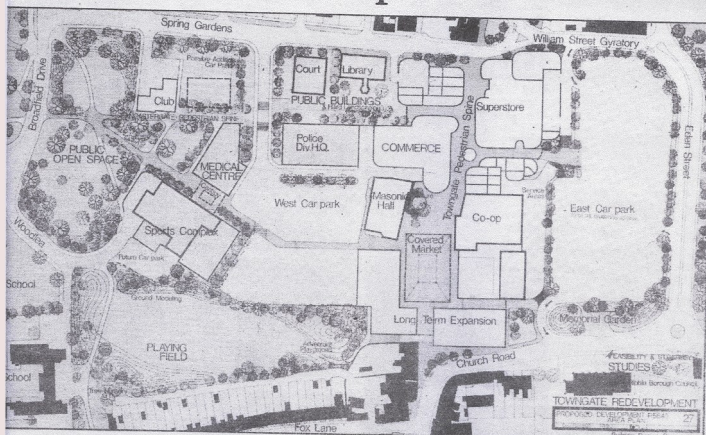
Photo: Francis Turner, Leyland

the east (right hand side in the picture) by Eden Street, linking Church Road with William Street which links up with Towngate. In this way traffic is syphoned away from Towngate between The Cross and William

Street which can also be seen in the picture and which will become a pedestrian way.

The photograph shows other neighbourhood units of Leyland and the industrial zone in relation to the centre.

This is how the planners see it



A face that never changes

This view of Leyland will be unchanged by the town centre redevelopment. The Cross originally stood on the village green and was there before the church which rises above the rooftops of the houses.

1976 plans for the development of the Leyland Cross end of Leyland

Historical Leyland

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CRACKED

Near the school is the grave of a faithful old school-master, Thomas Moon. The stone is now badly cracked, and the inscription hard to decipher, but records made about 50 years ago note that "Thomas Moon, gentleman, died January 4th, 1776". He was a "man of sound learning, wit, and probity. An instructive companion and a sincere friend to whom a good con-

Leyland St Andrews Millennium Crosses

Switch-on Programme Friday 31st December 1999

The Mayor of South Ribble B.C. Cllr Mrs Margaret Smith, and her Consort Mr Phil Smith will arrive at 6.55pm at the church brow.

6.30pm	Bollards in place marking Parking space	K Rimmer
6.40pm	Transport for Miss Gwen Buckley No 36 Crawford Avenue	F Turner
6.55pm	Mayoral Party arrive. Met by the Churchwardens	D Adams B Hamer
7.00pm	Meets Vicar in the Welcome Area who introduces Gwen Buckley and Jim Nelson who then introduces John Procter, Ken Rimmer and David Adams John Shepherd of Rank Fabrication (?)	KH JN GB JP, KR, DA
7.05pm	Vicar says a few words. JN says a few words JN then invites the Mayor, Mr Smith and Miss Buckley to switch-on the Millennium Crosses	KH JN
	Mayor, Consort, Gwen, Vicar, Jim are led out of church through the North Door to the podium All gather outside.	DA, BH
	▪ Mayor switches on the North Cross All move to the West side of the church	Mayor
	▪ Mr Phil Smith switches on the West Cross All move to the South side	Consort
	▪ Miss Gwen Buckley switches on the South Cross	Gwen Buckley
7.20pm	All return into church by the South Door	
7.25pm	Vicar closes the short ceremony with a suitable dedication prayer	KH

**Gwen is honoured with the task of switching on the light on the South Cross on
St Andrew's Church to celebrate the millennium**

The Perfect Pip

David John Hughes (ENG)



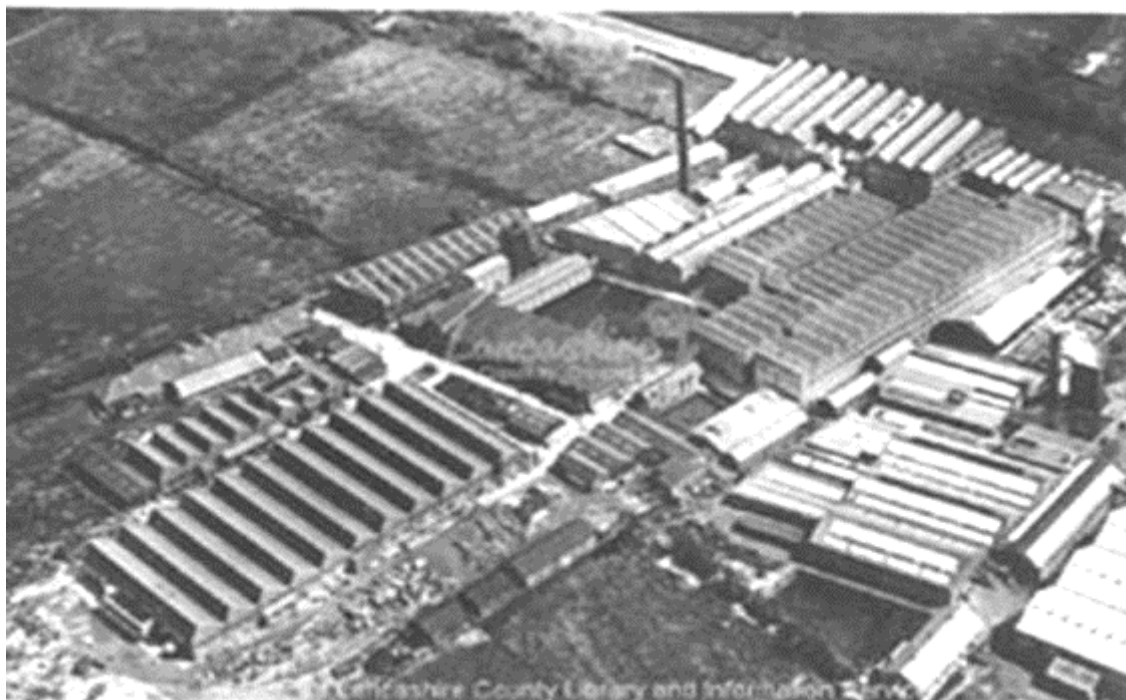
Apple, grape, orange, melon, which? Or a different type of pip perhaps. After two hours of relentless rallying in the first point of their singles match in Prague in 1936, Alex Ehrlich and Panneth Farcas could have been forgiven for muttering to each other under their breath, ‘can’t you quit that mind-numbing chiselling - it’s really getting on my pip’. We all know what that means of course (getting on my nerves) but where did it come from? A euphemism for ‘getting on my *bits*’ has been suggested, but it’s not at all certain. Nor indeed when the saying first appeared. But when it comes to the game of table tennis (in that context) there’s something of a double meaning in so much as ‘pips’, of the rubber type, comprised the very heart of the *trade* that golden-age players depended on to propel them to world heights on the illustrious green-topped tables. It may be a harmless inoffensive subject, but lacking controversy it certainly is not, in modern times at least.

In the days of the great players of the 40s and 50s - Richard Bergmann, Bohimul Vana, Johnny Leach, Ferenc Sido, Marty Reisman and many others, **Leyland** table tennis rubber was the very material deployed to assist them in their quest for sporting greatness, and at the time, none of them gave the matter too much thought. It was Leyland which provided the desired covering and that was largely all there was to it. These days, it’s quite a different story, for in the minds of some players (the late Marty Reisman in particular) Leyland table tennis rubber is the holy grail of classical ping-pong and Marty especially had been keen over recent years to track down examples of the type of rubber he was using at his peak.

In the year 2000, he and two other U.S. hardbat players visited Manchester to take on three British players - Denis Neale, Henry Buist and Jeff Ingbar, the other two Americans being Steve Berger and Scott Gordon. After the match, the U.S. lads took a trip to the Leyland rubber factory and were introduced to works manager, David Webster, who provided several sheets of pimpled rubber of varying degrees of hardness since Marty wanted to try to match the feel of the rubber he had used in the 1940s and 50s.

But why ‘Leyland’ and what exactly is it? Leyland is a place in Lancashire, UK, nestling amidst the former mill towns of Preston, Blackburn, Wigan and Bolton and lying some fifty miles north-west of Manchester. There is an 1854 reference in the *Mannex Directory* of mid-Lancashire to one W. Smith as a manufacturer of ‘waterproof cloths, pipings and washers’. At this early time, ‘waterproof cloths’ did not necessarily mean waterproof clothing but a key point is the address given for Smith’s premises: Golden Hill Works. (The Leyland Historical Society believes this place to be the old Leyland workhouse. The LHS must also be thanked

for much of the fine information appearing in this article). In 1862, a man called James Quin brought the rubber industry to Leyland when he opened a factory in East Street. By 1868, Quin moved into the Golden Hill workhouse (displacing Smith) and the business continued to flourish. At that time, Brazil was the only supplier of rubber which arrived in Great Britain in balls. These balls of rubber often contained stones and old bits of iron in the centre as the Brazilian packers frequently attempted to make up on the weight of their parcels.



Golden Hill Works. (The Leyland Historical Society believes this place to be the old Leyland Work-

In those days, Leyland was a small place and enjoyed the early title of the ‘Garden of Lancashire’ and the local people were amazed at a rubber works starting up in their midst. Originally known as Mr. Quin’s India Rubber and Hosepipe Works, the workhouse produced the following products: 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 articles for engineering functions - elastic steam rope, round or square with core in the centre, and all kinds of waterproof covers made to order, together with waterproof horse cloths.

Quin died in 1883 and the works became the ‘Leyland Rubber Company’ in 1886. In 1898 the Leyland Rubber Company amalgamated with the Birmingham Rubber Company to become the ‘Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Company’, the name now associated with the production of pimpled table tennis sheeting, though it’s generally known as just *Leyland Rubber*. The company went from strength to strength producing pneumatic tyres, hoses, belting, waterproof clothing and also range of surgical products which later became the foundation of ‘Leyland Medical International’.

By 1922 the Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Company included other local rubber companies: J E Baxter & Co, the Victory Rubber Company and Wood-Milne Ltd. Baxter’s made rubber heels, soles and tips for shoes and boots, rubber tilings and erasers and Wood-Milne manufactured pneumatic tyres and inner tubes for the motor car and motor cycle: solid band tyres for motor vehicles, belts for motor cycles; foot pumps for tyres and golf balls. It similarly made rubber heels, soles and tips and claimed to be the first to apply rubber to

footwear manufacture. By 1932 Baxter's had opened a respirator assembly factory, and the British Goodrich Rubber Company was established on Golden Hill Lane. In 1924 Wood-Milne Ltd was acquired by an American company which in 1934 became the British Tyre and Rubber Company.



These unusual pips from c.1902 era are shaped like pyramids!
ITTF Museum

But what about table tennis sheets?

The truth, it appears, is that no sheets were ever produced by the Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Company with the singular intention of surfacing table tennis rackets. The clue lies in the previous reference to 'waterproof horse cloths'. The fact is that Leyland and Birmingham had a significant interest in making non-slip pimpled sheeting, and one purpose was to make a suitable material that created a good grip for the reins of horses. The pimpled rubber sheeting was produced in 50 metre rolls (36 inches wide) and such pimpled sheeting has subsequently been used for other purposes, aside from anything to do with table tennis.

It seems that someone thought to adhere these particular rubber sheets to the blades of table tennis rackets and thereby provide the 'perfect' surface for such a racket. So the process was started by Leyland and Birmingham as an additional element of its business in addition to that of the original purpose of providing non-slip grips for horse's reins. The date this additional use began is not known though it may have been some time in the early 1930s when Victor Barna was demonstrating the very best of his form.

It could, however, have been notably earlier than that - within the first dozen years of the twentieth century. Further, it is not *completely* certain that pimpled rubber *did* commence for non-table tennis reasons. There is some chance that it *was* made for table tennis and that the horse-reins idea (and other purposes) came later. It is now known that Leyland and Birmingham manufactured table tennis rackets as early as 1902 with the production of typical parchment covered battledores from that era. (See photo on following page). It is possible that pimpled rubber was developed by Leyland in order to move on from the 1902-era table tennis equipment and the company subsequently used it for other purposes as well. No one knows for sure and all archive records in this regard, have been destroyed. But the long-standing inference is that the Leyland Company went into table tennis rubber production as a side line, using materials that had already been produced by them for other purposes – totally unaltered and unchanged. This may indeed be the case, but, on the other hand, maybe not.



Rare boxed set of The New Game of Table Tennis, ITTF Museum collection.
This was made in c.1902 by The Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Co. Ltd.

We know from earlier accounts that the first pimped rubber was applied to a flat wooden table tennis racket as early as 1902 and that such development was well under way by 1913 and up to the 1920s. Pimped rubber was firmly the order of the day in 1929 when Barna helped his team mates win the Swaythling cup for Hungary which he followed with five world singles' crowns. The question invariably crops up - what type of pimped rubber was being used at that time and, indeed, exactly what type of rackets? It is known that Walter Briggs of London made many of the rackets used in the 1935 World Championships but was Briggs using Leyland-produced rubber at that time? The likely answer is 'Yes'. It is a fascinating question but the answer is one that is somewhat lost in the mists of time. However, there is one captivating up-to-date twist and it is a twist that very few people are likely to know about.

The Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Company closed down in 2002 but production of the table tennis sheeting ceased a decade or so before that. Suddenly, the contemporary hardbat table tennis fraternity was denied the material it had held dear for so many years and which had elevated the greats to their high ping-pong status and their world-beating achievements. But was the 'formula' for the production of Leyland table tennis rubber lost forever? It certainly appeared that way because modern hardbat players and companies began to emulate the style of Leyland rubber as closely as possible. ATP Sport Ltd produced the Reisman Devil Red and Black Ace rubbers, putting in a lot of research into just how this might be best achieved. In the process, it produced frictionless sheets which are the opposite to classic Leyland ones, even though they play similarly.

Andro Classic is said by some to be very similar to Leyland rubber but it is well known that it doesn't play the same. Others claim that Dr Evil is the current closest to Leyland but this does not have the same Leyland feel either. The hardbat fraternity in Harlow, Essex, has recently produced a rubber which may be a Leyland equivalent. All this appears to be based on attempts to work out how to reproduce the original product or to emulate the feel of play from typical Leyland sheets.

But is that necessary? Yes and no. In 2007, a new company was born - Leyland Rubber Components Ltd. LRC bought out the original Leyland and Birmingham rights from receivership and it now produces rubber products just as the earlier Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Company did in the past. Even the original L and B name is still in business as it too was bought up in 2002 by Nufox Rubber Ltd of Manchester. Tantalizingly, LRC (made up for the biggest part of former L and B employees) also inherited two original rotocure matrixes for

making non-slip rubber sheeting, and produced a 50 metre roll in 2008. (One of these matrixes became deficient, which leaves only one feasible rotocure machine in the hands of Leyland Rubber Components Ltd). Production was therefore not permanently discontinued in the 90s as such, but passed to LRC in 2007 which did in fact continue to manufacture it, though not on an ongoing basis. Fifty metres of this material is a substantial amount and would go some distance to providing many 'pure' Leyland table tennis rackets. It has now all been used but nearly every piece went for other purposes, none being anything to do with table tennis. However, a lovely double-size sheet (16 inches by 10 inches) has come into the possession of the author which will grace the surfaces of one of his classic hardbats in due course. For some time, the exact specifications and pip types were not researched so the details were not wholly clear. But the colour is a bold shade of blue since this is the only colour made by LRC whereas the former Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Company made a variety of colours.

One other very interesting observation can be seen when looking down upon this Leyland-produced rubber with a strong magnifying glass – the pips are asterisk-like in shape whereas most other pips appear to be more rounded in appearance, including the post 1948 Dunlop brown rubber ones. The depth of the flat rubber surface beneath the pips is notably thick and the backing cloth is similarly thick which means it is not ideal for the job compared to other Leyland surfaces that were produced in the 1930s, '40s, '50s, '60s, '70s and perhaps the '80s.

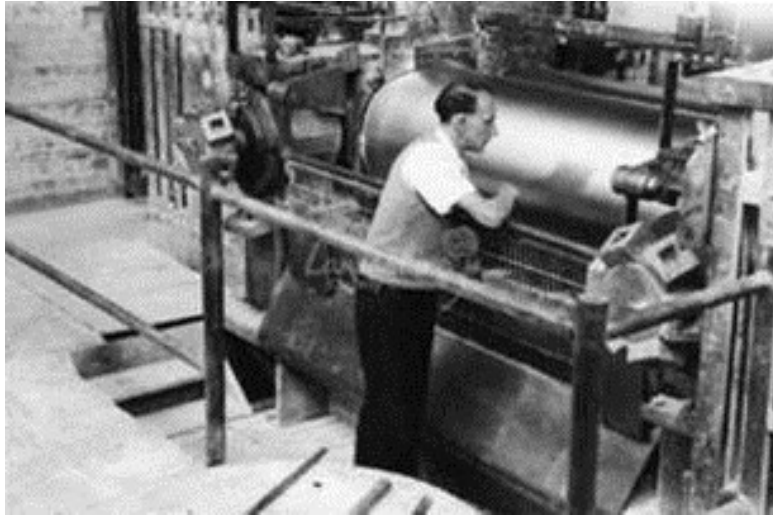


...Leyland produced rubber... the pips are asterisk-like in shape...

So, is the formula for original Leyland table tennis rubber actually lost forever and is there a need to work out scientifically how to reproduce it? Again, 'Yes' and 'No', though perhaps it is more of a case of, 'Yes'. If anyone would care to put up nineteen hundred pounds sterling, Leyland Rubber Components Ltd will happily turn out another 50 metre roll of this blue pimply rubber sheeting and there is little doubt that it would make quite a suitable Leyland surface for table tennis rackets even though it is **not** the type of Leyland rubber that was used by the great players of the golden age of the sport. That's the minimum feasible run for manufacture purposes. LRC Ltd has no plans to make any more, and even if it did, the only remaining original Leyland pimply rubber would not produce the exact feel known to have existed in the height of the days of the famous table tennis legends of yore, though such a feel may not be fully understood these days.

But the story doesn't quite end there for it is necessary to explain how things changed during the latter years of the old Leyland factory and how the current factory at Centurion Way is unable to produce rubber sheeting via the original technique.

Pimp sheet was originally manufactured at Leyland & Birmingham by vulcanising rubber sheet, of the correct thickness, against a perforated metal sheet sandwiched between sheets of fine weave fabric. Pressure exerted during **steam pan** vulcanisation pushed the rubber into the perforations forming the pips. It also pushed the rubber into the fabric to form the pattern

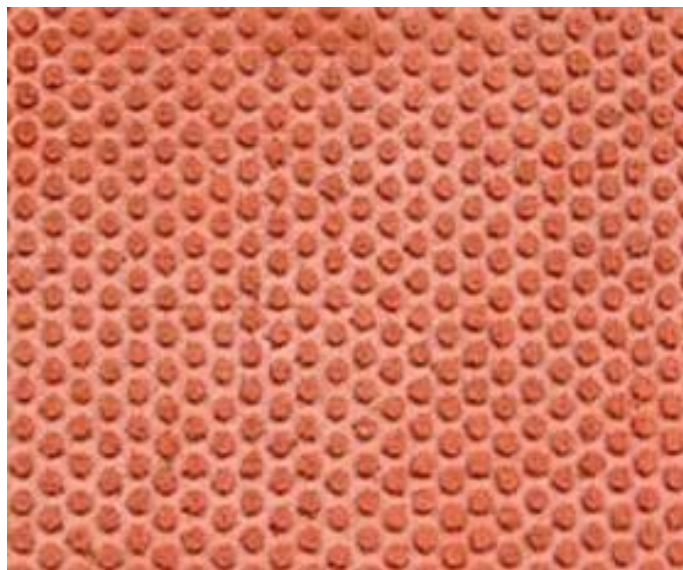


Mixing machine from the former
Leyland & Birmingham Rubber Company

on the head of the pips and on the back of the rubber sheet. Reducing the thickness of the rubber sheet or minor modification to the rubber compound altered the ability of the rubber to move through the perforations in the metal sheet and form the patterned heads. Later manufacturing employed a Rotocure to vulcanise and form the pips using **hydraulic** pressure. This method applied consistently higher pressure than the earlier steam pan production and often exaggerated the pattern formed on the pip heads.”

Reference: Carlton Robinson, former Technical Director of the Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Company.

The problem then is easy to understand. The old Leyland and Birmingham Rubber company made its pimpled rubber sheeting using a steam pan method.

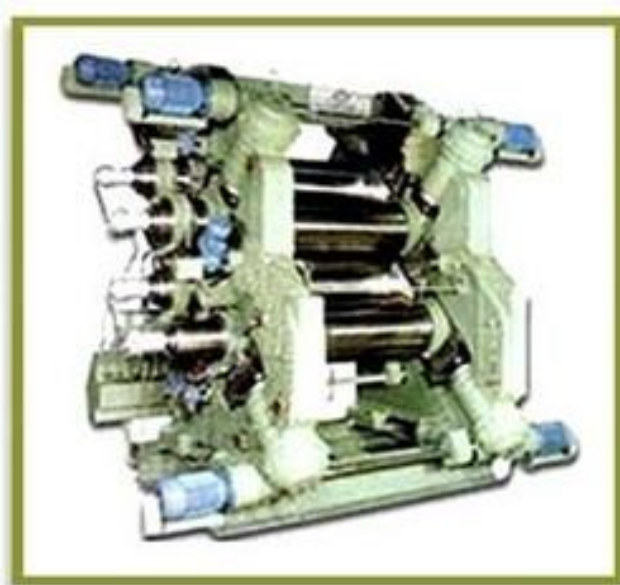


Leyland rubber made by the steam pan method, 1950s.
Some spread is evident at the pip tops

This produced a notably different type of Leyland rubber sheet. Later, and before the closure of the factory in 2002, the rubber sheeting was produced via a machine known as a Rotocure.

Veteran Carlton Robinson explains:

A Rotocure is a machine consisting of three hollow metal drums, each 1 metre in diameter and 1.5 metres in length positioned in a triangular configuration, around which runs an endless metal belt. A fourth metal drum, the same size as the other three, is positioned outside the metal belt and between two of the drums that are inside the belt. Hydraulic pressure on these two inside drums to move them apart tensions the belt and applies pressure on



A rotocure machine with its large metal drums

the outside of the belt – pertaining to the fourth drum. The drums are steam heated and radiant heaters boost the temperature of the belt. The combination of rubber sheet, pip-forming sheet and fabric impression cloth is passed between the outside drum and the tensioned metal belt to form the pips and vulcanise the rubber. The combination is carried by the belt to pass the third inside drum forming the triangular configuration, where it is separated and the pipped sheet is collected.

The perforated metal sheets used to form the pips in the steam pan method were originally used on the Rotocure but were found, under the higher pressure, to damage the fabrics very rapidly. The short sheets of perforated metal were changed for a continuous roll of perforated nylon sheet, to become known as the matrix”.

The original steam pan equipment no longer exists therefore the ability to manufacture the type of Leyland rubber essentially sought by hardbat table tennis players has disappeared. And this is still very much the case, even though Leyland Rubber Components are in possession of such a rotocure matrix, acquired from the latter days of the old Leyland factory. Could Leyland rubber pimpled sheet still be produced today? ‘Yes’, most certainly, though it would have thick backing cloth, thick base rubber and asterisk-shaped pip heads (or mushroom-shaped or otherwise described as having a notable spread of rubber on the pip heads). It could be manufactured by LRC using a rotacure that was also used by the Leyland and Birmingham

Rubber Company during its latter days. But LRC could not produce the exact type of Leyland rubber that was well known to the golden era greats of table tennis since it would need the original steam pan equipment to do so now gone forever.

But what, precisely, is the exact type of Leyland rubber?

The original Leyland is very grippy, it does not produce high arcing topspin because it has very soft pips like some long pips, but because it only had an average pip height of .75mm it did not produce long pip wobble. We only found this out by accident, for when we made the rubber harder it made the rubber spinnier. When we made it softer, it produced less spin, but because of the ITTF demand for a minimum 1mm pip height, it created the wobble effect.

Reference: Mark Johnson, ATP Sport Limited

Mark had this thought: a case of history possibly repeating itself. If there is a world-wide resurgence of sandbat table tennis resulting from the desire of one man in particular to establish many high prize sandbat events, might it be possible for 'golden age' hardbat table tennis to similarly evolve a second time by way of a follow on, and on a massive scale. If so, and there was truly enormous demand for original 30s, 40s and 50s Leyland rubber, would it be possible for LRC to attempt to produce that particular type of Leyland table tennis rubber? Probably not, for it would mean starting all over again and re-inventing the wheel by way of the machinery needed to produce such rubber. All archive drawings of the machinery have been destroyed. While there are no plans by LRC to produce more Leyland rubber bearing the typical asterisk-head pips, thick rubber base and thick backing cloth, the fact is, **it could**.

Notes and References:

Poole Pottery commemorative plate (shown with the title)
Mark and Lily Johnson – ATP Sport
Writings of Marty Reisman (1958 and 1960 U.S. Men's singles champion)
A writing of Victor Barna (Five times world table tennis (ping pong) champion)
The Leyland Historical Society
David Hunt, *The History of Leyland and District*
The Lancashire Lantern, Lancashire County Council website
Carlton Robinson, former Technical Director of Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Company
Chris Robinson, Sales Manager of Leyland Rubber Components Ltd

Editor's note: David Hughes will enjoy hearing from any experienced voice who can share further details, or perhaps even share a supply of the 'old Leyland'!

The Stanning Family

Part One - From Halliwell to Leyland

When Michael Park wrote his fascinating account of the life story of John Stanning, Esq, MA, JP, in 1992 (see part 3), he concentrated on the man himself. Having now discovered that John Stanning was born and bred in Halliwell¹, once a village outside Bolton, I thought I would write about his early years from the family history angle and the rise of the family bleaching industry, before going on to mention the rest of his family.

The family story begins with John's grandparents, James Stanning, born 1775, and Betty Thomasson, born 1780, who came from Bolton and Turton respectively. After marrying in 1802, they had three sons, John, senior, James and Richard between 1808 and 1821. The family was from humble beginnings though their occupation as *crofters* in the greater Bolton area was very different from the Scottish occupation of the same name.

The bleaching of cloth, as performed in the eighteenth century, occupied from six to eight months. It started by boiling the cloth in hot alkaline lyes, made from clean water and burnt plant ashes. This was known as 'bowking' or 'bucking', and was necessary to remove the natural waxes and starch which had been added to the cloth during the weaving process. The vessels or kiers in which the cloth was steeped in this alkaline solution would be of stone, brick or copper, heated underneath by a hearth. The fuel was readily available in the Turton district coal having been mined in the locality from the seventeenth century and probably earlier. Then the cloth was washed in clean water and any residual alkali neutralised by 'souring' (soaking in a weak acid liquid made from butter milk and human urine, which was collected from local households!).

After more washing, the cloth was spread out on the grass for exposure to the sunlight and air for some weeks and this procedure was known as *crofting*². This bucking and crofting was repeated alternately five or six times. The cloth was then steeped for some days in sour milk, washed clean and again crofted. These processes were repeated, thereby reducing the strength of the alkaline ley each time, until the cloth had acquired the requisite whiteness.

Following the discovery of the properties of chlorine for bleaching purposes and its use in a 'bleaching powder', together with other chemical discoveries, the bleaching industry changed in the first half of the nineteenth century from a semi-crofting industry to a factory based one. The new factories required lots of clean water and power, provided by large water wheels and the bleaching process was taking days rather than months.

John Stanning, senior, joined the firm of Richard Ainsworth Son & Co at the tender age of eleven in 1817. The firm had been set up by Peter Ainsworth (1713-80) as a bleaching business at Halliwell in 1739 and, after inheriting a large legacy from the lexicographer, Robert Ainsworth of Stepney in 1743, he settled at Lightbounds House near the works.

His son, Peter Ainsworth (1736-1807), successfully developed chemical bleaching technology which made the company far more efficient and profitable. In 1786-90 he built Moss Bank House near the bleachworks and created a parkland setting for the new mansion but he continued to live at Lightbounds and installed his son, Richard Ainsworth (1762-1833) in the new house. Richard seems to have enlarged the house as the profits of the bleaching business accumulated.

In 1801 he bought the adjacent Smithills Hall estate, which included a large tract of moorland stretching up to Winter Hill from which the water for his bleachworks was



Halliwell bleach works in the Moss Bank Park

derived. Securing this, rather than the ancient mansion, was probably the motivation for his purchase. In 1814 he also bought Halliwell Hall near the works, making him the owner of three large houses. When he died in 1833, however, his eldest son, Peter Ainsworth (1790-1870) withdrew from the bleaching business and devoted himself to politics becoming the Member of Parliament for Bolton from 1834 to 1847 and settling as a gentleman at Smithills Hall where he remodeled the west wing as a picturesque but comfortable house. It was left to his younger brother, John Horrocks Ainsworth (1800-1865), to continue the business and to occupy Moss Bank House.

John Stanning, senior, married Elizabeth Heaton on 22nd April 1835 and he was already described as the cashier of the company and would seem to have moved into Lightbounds, which had been vacated by the Ainsworth family, as his young family are listed on the 1841 census, though he is described as a 'bleacher'. By this time, John was 34, his wife Elizabeth was 30, their eldest son Joseph Heaton was 5, Henrietta was 3 and John, junior, was 1, being born on 9th May, 1840. Two further children, Mary Jane and Martha were born in 1843 and 1846 respectively. The 1841 census notes that there were another three families living in Lightbounds at this time.

On the 1851 census, John, senior, was listed as the manager of the bleachworks at age 44, with Elizabeth, now 39, living with their two daughters Mary Jane, 8, and Martha, 5. The two sons Joseph Heaton and John, junior, were both boarders at Manchester Grammar School, lodging at Broughton Lane, Cheetham, Manchester.

John's widowed mother, Betty, now 71, John's father, James, having died in 1843, is shown as occupying one of the properties at Lightbounds with her two sons, James now 33 and Richard 30, still living at home along with James's daughter Elizabeth aged 8. In the



Lightbounds House

second property on the site was John Darbyshire, Manager of the Bank of Bolton living with two nieces and in the third property was John Jaques, Chaplain of the Smithills Chapel living with a housekeeper.

The 1851 census also confirms that John Horrocks Ainsworth was now registered as blind which would explain why John, senior, had become manager of the principal portion of the works ultimately being admitted as a partner in the concern.

On the 1861 census, the only Stannings still in Lightbounds are John, senior, and Elizabeth with John described as a ‘cotton bleacher’, his mother, Betty, now aged 81, had moved with her son James and granddaughter Elizabeth to Albion Terrace in Halliwell where he had become a ‘muslin finisher’. The other son, Richard, had married and was living in Hampden Street, Little Bolton.

John, junior, was at Rugby School where his father’s partner, Mr. Ainsworth, had also been educated. His brother, Joseph Heaton, continued in his studies to the priesthood gaining a Bachelor of Arts in 1859, followed by a Master of Arts degree at Clare College, Cambridge University in 1863. He had already been ordained a deacon at Ely in 1859 and by the time of the 1861 census now aged 25 he had taken the position as curate of the Parish of Litlington, Ely, near Cambridge. At that time he was accompanied by his three sisters, Elizabeth, Mary Jane and Martha.

While he continued his studies at Cambridge, Joseph Heaton Stanning became a curate at Astley Bridge from 1861 until 1863, and then he moved to Heywood from 1863 until 1865, where he married Eliza Thwaites in December 1863. He then moved again to Westleigh from 1865 until 1869 eventually becoming at first curate at Leigh from 1869 until 1874 then as vicar of the parish; an additional position being the Hon. Canon of Manchester from 1900,

until his death in 1907.

John, junior, meanwhile, was also studying at Trinity College, Cambridge from 1863 until 1867, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1864, followed by a Master of Arts in 1867, he also managed to obtain a rowing 'blue' in the recreation time allowed.

The death of John, senior's, wife Elizabeth on 3rd May 1864 was followed by the death of Mr. J. H. Ainsworth in early 1865. The business passed to his son, Colonel Richard Henry Ainsworth, who it has been stated disagreed with John, senior, and after five years the partnership was dissolved. As can be seen from the notice it was a buy-out of John, senior's, interest in the business though no figure is mentioned.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership thereto fore subsisting between us the undersigned, Richard Henry Ainsworth, of Moss Bank, within Halliwell, near Bolton, in the county of Lancaster, and John Stanning, of Halliwell aforesaid, carrying on business in Halliwell aforesaid, as Bleachers and Dyers, under the style or firm of Richard Ainsworth, Son, and Company, was dissolved by mutual consent on the 25th day of January, 1871. All debts due to and owing by the late firm will be received and paid by the undersigned Richard Henry Ainsworth, who will in future carry on the said business on his own account, under the same style or firm of Richard Ainsworth, Son, and Company.

Dated this 10th day of April, 1871.

R. H. Ainsworth. John Stanning.

It was at this time that John, senior, together with his son John, junior, left Ainsworth's in Halliwell and headed over to Leyland as a sub-tenant of the late James Fletcher's lease to take over the Shruggs bleachworks which had been run by Holt, Pilkington & Co.

59 Lightbounds Street	John Stanning	Head	Male	38	Bleacher Master & Dynging	Do	Do
	Elizabeth	Wife	Female	35	59, Market St. Farnham	Do	Do
	John	Son	Male	10	Bleacher Master	Do	Do
	Martha	Daughter	Female	28		Do	Do
	Ann	Servant	Female	22	Cook & domestic serv	Wharfedale	Do
	Eleanor	Servant	Female	22	Waitress	Do	Do
	Emily	Servant	Female	22	Housemaid	Do	Do
	Elizabeth	Servant	Female	18	Kitchenmaid	Do	Do

The Stannings had not quite finished with Halliwell though as the 1871 census notes the four properties had now become one and Lightbounds was a 'private house'

Here, besides John Stanning, senior, his children Elizabeth, John, junior. and Martha, there was also a cook, waitress, housemaid and kitchen maid all living on the premises. John, senior, was now described as a 'Bleacher Master' employing 59 males and 31 females, John, junior, also being a Bleacher Master though not in Halliwell but in Leyland.

Lightbounds - twenty-first century

The property of Lightbounds has recently been on the property market, its details make interesting reading as the conversion could have been a prototype for Broadfield House in Leyland:

The house is over four floors and comprises an entrance lobby, cloakroom, reception hall, principal lounge, formal dining room, separate sitting room, fitted dining kitchen, large utility room, six double bedrooms and bathroom. At basement level, there are also four cellar rooms.



View of the Lightbounds house from Cinder Lane

The details on the Grade II listing, dated 26th April 1974, describe the house as now divided as two dwellings with render over stone with slate hanging to rear and Welsh slate and stone flagged roofs. It was probably in origin seventeenth century with a previous building on the site, but extended and remodelled subsequently.

The exterior of the buildings are two storeys, the principal elevation being a five window range. The extent of the seventeenth century building is unclear, but the rear wing to the south-west and a range parallel to the garden-front range seem the earliest parts of the present building. Both have stone flagged roofs, and there is a four light mullioned window on each floor, apparently c1700, in the rear wing.

The garden range is itself built in two phases, the earlier represented by the three-window range to the north-east. Three four-light mullioned windows to first floor, and the square bay window and four-light mullioned window to ground floor all appear to be nineteenth century. The present entrance is in the gable wall. This range extended probably during the later nineteenth century by a two-window range to the south-west, with similar windows, and a doorway to its right.

A further rear wing, parallel to the earlier wing, was added mid-late nineteenth century: two storey, three-window range with two-pane sashes. There are moulded eaves, cornice and blocking course. Various lean-to additions against rear walls were probably also mid-late nineteenth century. The history according to the listing quotes that the house is believed to have been the home farm to Smithills Hall in the sixteenth century and to have been occupied during the civil war by Thomas Lightbounds, and in the

eighteenth century by the Ainsworth family who used the adjacent park as a bleaching ground.

Halliwell after the Stannings

Before we leave Halliwell, I should mention what happened to the Ainsworths and the Halliwell Bleachworks. Peter Ainsworth of Smithills Hall had died in 1870 without issue, and thus the rest of the estate also passed to John's son, Colonel Richard Henry Ainsworth (1839-1926). He chose to live at Smithills and employed George Devey to restore and remodel the rest of the house in 1874-78 and 1882-84. Moss Bank House was abandoned by the family after 1870 and either let (William Hargreaves of Hick Hargreaves was the tenant at one time) or used to house old retainers of the family. In 1900, Colonel Ainsworth sold the bleaching business and moved to Winwick Warren in Northamptonshire, a much smaller house which he seems to have bought round about 1880.



The chimney of the Halliwell Bleach works in the Moss Bank Park, the only part of the Bleach works still standing.

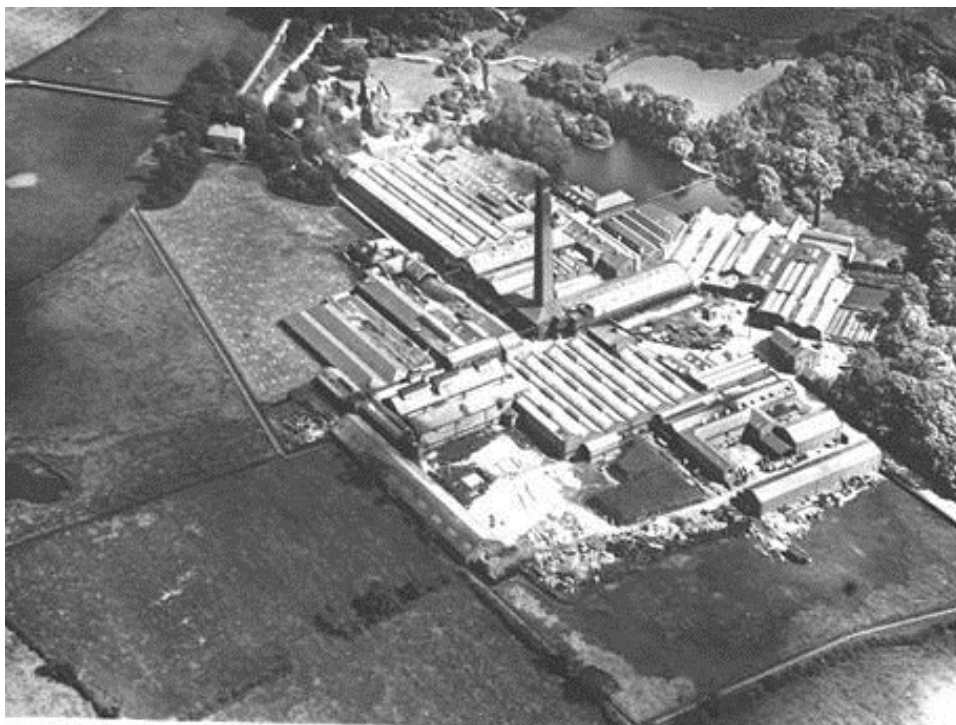
Part Two - John Stanning, junior's, family

As John, senior, and John, junior, built up the business in Leyland, John, junior, began courting, funnily enough, with Harriet Sarah, a member of an Ainsworth family. However, she was not a member of the Ainsworth family of Halliwell, this Ainsworth family came from Deane in Bolton originally but they had been living and working in Blackburn.

It would seem that John had met Harriet when he had business dealings with her father, Thomas Crooke Ainsworth, an attorney, who practised law in Blackburn and, according to the 1855 Slater's Directory, was the secretary to the Blackburn Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers Association at 4, King William Street. However, by the time John and Harriet were to be married on 7th October, 1874, both of Harriet's parents were dead. Her mother, Hannah Mary, formerly a Somner had died in 1869, while her father died in July 1873. This could partly explain why the wedding took place at St Cuthbert's, the parish church in

Lytham, as Harriet seems to have left Blackburn to live in Lytham.

The vicar taking the service was John's brother, Joseph Heaton Stanning, who was then the curate in charge of Leigh Parish Church. The couple went on their honeymoon but while they were away they received news of the death of John, senior, who died on 15th October, in Leyland. They returned immediately and John took charge of the company with John, senior, being buried back in Halliwell at St Peter's on 20th October, 1874,.



The Bleachworks at Leyland with Broadfield House in the distance

While John looked after business, Harriet Sarah took care of the home in Leyland having seven children over the next seventeen years:

Hannah Mary Stanning, born 26th December, 1875

John Stanning, (the third) born 10th October, 1877

Joseph Edward Stanning, born 5th March, 1880

Harry Duncan Stanning, born 14th November, 1881

Charles Gordon Stanning, born 10th April, 1885

Andrew Stanning, born 9th April and died 15th April, 1888

Frances Helen Stanning, born 12th January, 1892.

A short history of their lives appears in part four.

The home they lived in when they made the move to Leyland was named Broadfield House. It was built prior to 1881, being a stately mansion with beautiful gardens built on the instructions contained within the lease between John Stanning and Susan Maria Farington of 1872. The house, gardens and surroundings had to cost a minimum of £3000, though the cost of the mansion eventually was double the amount specified.

The two big lakes with boathouses, swans and ducks were really a reservoir for the works though they were stocked with brown and rainbow trout. In one room of the house, the

panelling was from the *Foudroyant*, a ship that was wrecked off the coast of Blackpool. The mansion was demolished even before the firm itself closed down and is now the site of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church.



Broadfield House

PETER HOUGHTON

Part Three – John Stanning, Esq, MA, JP

Under John Stanning's guidance the bleachworks expanded rapidly over the next few years becoming a major employer in the town. According to the 1881 census, 159 males and 62 females were now employed, some coming from Scotland and Ireland. Black dyeing was introduced in 1880 and coloured dyeing a few years later. He was very progressive and enterprising and constantly introduced new machinery to improve efficiency at the works.

He was a great supporter of James Sumner, the founder of Leyland Motors, and allowed him to experiment with his machines along Cow Lane leading to the bleachworks. When Sumner produced a 5-ton steam wagon, Stanning used a couple to haul coal from the Basket Pit at Heskin to his works at Leyland. There was strong opposition from the carters who feared for their livelihoods and from local residents who complained the wagons were damaging the roads and bridges.

The strength of feeling showed itself in 1888 when the Lancashire County Council was formed and John Stanning stood as the Conservative candidate for Leyland. His opponent was the Liberal, James Nuttall Boothman, who made much political capital from the use of the engines, depicting them in a cartoon smashing up the roads of Leyland. This, and the fact that the County Council's chief responsibility was the up-keep of roads and bridges, was not lost on the voters. Stanning lost by 125 votes. The steam wagon was not a great success and Stanning went back to the use of horses. However he did buy the first steam lawnmower that Sumner produced in 1892 for use on his estate and the cricket ground.

Cricket was John Stanning's main form of relaxation. He played an important role in setting up the county ground at Old Trafford, Manchester, and was a member of the Committee until his death. Although he was not a great player, he was widely acknowledged as a good judge of the game, a tract that would go through further generations.

In 1877 he and a few enthusiastic friends hired a field near Wellington House, Church Road, from Mr. John Bretherton. The team played here for two or three seasons with Stanning as Captain. In 1880 the club moved to a field at Fox Lane leased from the Reverend Thomas Rigbye Baldwin. The cricket ground was laid out under the care of Stanning's head gardener, Josiah Kirkman. In fact all his gardeners, and there was a considerable number, had to be cricketers before they would be employed.

The first match at Fox Lane on 2nd June, 1880, was against United South, who were a far superior team. So to make a game of it agreement was reached that Leyland should play 22 batsmen. In the first innings John Stanning was out for 0 after hitting his wicket and in the second innings he was bowled for 1. Leyland lost by 4 runs but the match was greatly enjoyed by the spectators and afterwards there was dancing on the field to music by Clayton-le-Moors Brass Band. Stanning always thought that the game should be 'played as cricket should be played, with keenness and good temper'. He insisted that every boy who came to the ground should be coached. During the winter months there were always four or five professional cricketers in the office at the bleachworks.

The club went from strength to strength under Stanning's captaincy forming 2nd and 3rd elevens and came to be regarded as a nursery for Lancashire C.C.C producing several county players. All four of his sons played cricket with Duncan and John, junior, playing for Lancashire, the latter going on tour to Australia.

John Stanning also played a very important role in the public life of Leyland. He was Chairman of the Town Council and represented Leyland on the County Licensing Committee, placed on the Commission of the Peace in October 1884 and a member of the Standing Joint Committee for Lancashire. He was Chairman of the Governors of Balshaw's Trust and Chairman of the Leyland Public Hall Company which he and a few local businessmen formed.

On the 18th September, 1896, the Trustees of the old Grammar School, which was closed in 1874, informed the Charity Commission that they wished to sell the building. It was valued at £90 and the Reverend Leyland Baldwin wanting it for a parish hall offered the valuation price: John Stanning stepped in and offered to pay for it. However, further bids of £130 and £131 were made by two Leyland residents. Stanning was determined to acquire the building for the parish and offered £135 which was accepted.

To celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 the Reverend Leyland Baldwin wanted to increase the number of bells in the tower of the Parish Church from 6 to 8. John Stanning bought and presented the tenor bell weighing 21-cwt. With the inscription: 'Morning, evening, noon and night praise God'. Stanning was senior Trustee of the Osbaldeston's Alms house charity with the residents being selected by his wife Harriet. He was also a warden of the Parish Church for over 30 years and a generous benefactor to St. Andrew's and St. John's schools and churches and to many other worthy causes.

The first procession of the May festival took place on 20th May, 1889, and acknowledged by many to be the most impressive feature was the float entered by John Stanning and Sons Ltd. This horse-drawn lorry was made up to represent the deck of a ship and under a canopy stood Britannia and John Bull with Marines and Bluejackets standing guard. The floats and the beautiful shire horses were to be a feature of the festival for many years to come.

As well as being a major employer he was also a good employer and was highly regarded by his workers and the local people. There was no better example of this than on 7th October, 1899, on the occasion of John and Harriet's Silver Wedding anniversary. In celebration of the

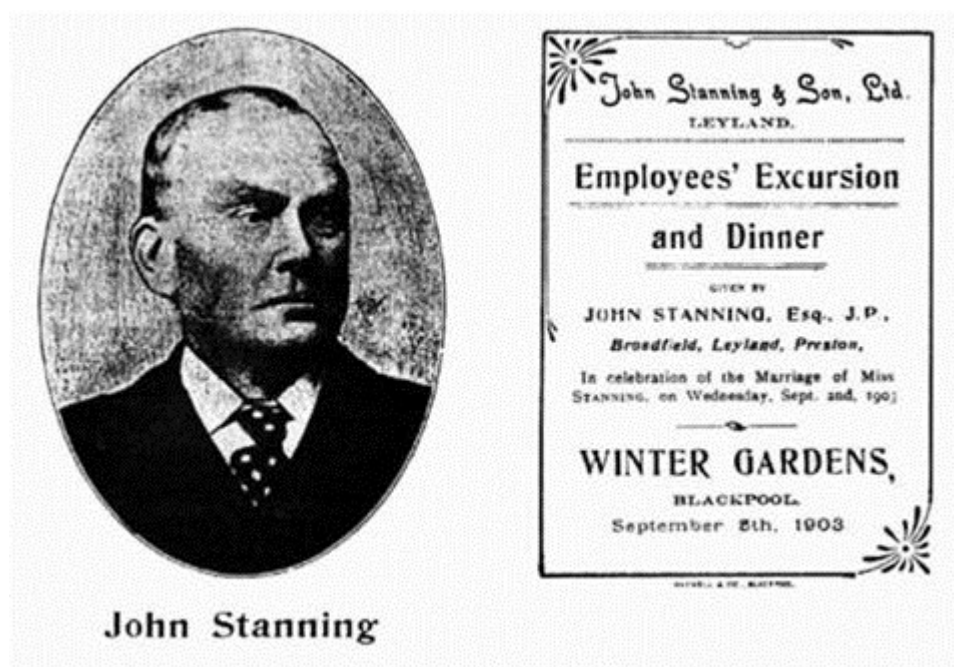
event the entire workforce were each given a sum of money and a train ticket to Blackpool. The couple were presented with a handsome silver dessert service from the parishioners of the Parish Church. The employees gave them a fine silver centrepiece and from the cricket club they received a silver dessert dish. Pupils at St. Andrew's and St. John's schools presented a silver paper-knife.

In 1900, Stanning was made joint Managing Director of the newly formed British Bleachers Association. The extra workload and a heart condition began to take a toll on his health, so much so that in 1904 doctors advised a complete rest. He took their advice and with his son, Henry Duncan, travelled to Egypt for a holiday. They were on a Nile steamer going to Khartoum when John Stanning was taken ill with malaria fever.

He was transferred from the steamer to Luxor for medical care. A telegram was sent to Mrs. Stanning and their eldest son John set out immediately for Cairo. On Friday afternoon, 4th March, his condition worsened with the onset of pneumonia and at 9 o'clock the following night he died. On Sunday, 6th March, 1904, the bells of St. Andrew's church rang a muffled peal throughout the day in mourning for his death. The Reverend Leyland Baldwin, at the morning service, spoke of the awful loss suffered by his family, employees and the people of Leyland.

His body was embalmed and buried according to custom the following day. His last will and testament were proved in probate in London on 3rd May 1904 with a value of £227,122. 12s 5d. The following year, his remains having stayed the one year as prescribed were then brought home to Leyland and buried in the parish churchyard on 5th April 1905.

A small terrace of houses, which still stand, was being built on Leyland Lane at the time of his death, and was named Luxor Terrace in his memory. It seems a shame there is so little to commemorate such a major industrialist, public figure and benefactor of Leyland.



On the left, a photograph of John Stanning from the Parish Church magazine
On the right, the Employees Excursion and Dinner to Blackpool celebrating the marriage of his eldest daughter, Hannah Mary Stanning to John Gilbert Lewis Eccles

MICHAEL PARK (Chronicle 38 - December 1992)

Part Four – The Stanning Family – The Next Generation

According to the 1911 census, the residents at Broadfield House included Harriet Sarah, John Stanning, junior's, widow; Hannah Mary and her husband John Gilbert Lewis Eccles; John Stanning (the third); Joseph Edward Stanning and his wife Mary Gladys, and Frances Helen Stanning. They were looked after by a butler, cook, kitchen maid, housemaid, nursemaid and sewing maid. Missing from the house were sons Henry Duncan and Charles Gordon who will be found elsewhere.

John Stanning's widow, Mrs. Harriet Sarah Stanning died on Saturday 8th April, 1916, at 63 Kent Road, Harrogate, aged 65 years. The funeral took place on Wednesday 12th April, 1916, at the Leyland Parish graveyard.

The first child, Hannah Mary Stanning, was also the first to flee the nest into married life as *The Times* reported her marriage as 'on the 2nd inst., at the parish church, Leyland, by the Rev. Canon Stanning, Vicar of Leigh (uncle of the bride), assisted by the Rev. Leyland Baldwin (Vicar of the parish) and the Rev. A. Evington, John Gilbert Luis Eccles, eldest son of John Eccles, of Farington House, near Preston, to Hannah Mary, elder daughter of John Stanning, of Broadfield, Leyland, Lancashire'.

John Gilbert Lewis Eccles was a cotton spinner and manufacturer like his father, also John Eccles. He and his new wife settled down to live at Broadfield House. Three daughters, Barbara Mary, Evelyn Diana and Nancy were born in 1907, 1909 and 1913 respectively, the last daughter was born in Swindon which could denote a move from Leyland as John was later to die in Chipping Norton in 1940 and Hannah Mary three years later in Westminster, London.

The second child, John Stanning (the third) was, like his father, educated at Trinity College, Cambridge obtaining a Bachelor of Arts between 1896 and 1899 becoming a first class cricketer for Cambridge University and Lancashire. By the time of the 1911 census, he was back at Broadfield House and his occupation is listed as 'Bleacher'.

Another marriage report in *The Times* states: 'On the 13th November, 1917, at St James's, Piccadilly, London, John Stanning, eldest son of the late John Stanning, of Broadfield, Leyland, Lancashire, to Phyllis Mary Noel Marriage, second daughter of David Marriage, of Broughton Park, Worcester, and Chorley, Lancashire.' David Marriage was a Master Cotton Spinner based in Worcester.

Soon after the end of the war, the couple moved to Kenya, where two of his younger brothers had already settled in Nakura, Kenya. Here their son, John (the fourth) was born on 24th June, 1919, in Nairobi, who would fulfil the previous generations' interest in cricket by playing sixteen first class matches in 1939 and 1946, nine for Worcestershire and seven for Oxford University (note the change in University). This was the last of the John Stannings (I think) and he died on the 29th May 2007.

The death of John Stanning (the third) was noted in *The Times* on 19th May, 1929, with 'Mr. John Stanning, a member of a well-known Lancashire cricketing family, formerly of Leyland, has been killed in a motor accident in Kenya Colony, where he had lived for many years'.

The third child, Joseph Edward Stanning also attended Trinity College, Cambridge before coming back to the family business. Again according to *The Times*: 'On the 28th April 1909, at the Parish Church, Bowden, by the Rev. Canon Wainwright, M.A., assisted by Rev. J. Stanning, M.A. (cousin of the bridegroom), Joseph Edward Stanning, second son of the late

John Stanning, of Leyland, Lancashire, to Mary Gladys (May), only daughter of George Chester Haworth, of High Lawn Bowdon, Chester'. George Chester Haworth was also a Cotton Merchant and Manufacturer based in Cheshire.

This couple did not have children and settled down in Derbyshire, where *The Times* again reported: 'On February 10th, 1939, at Lady Hole House, Yeldersley, near Derby, Joseph Edward Stanning, dearly loved husband of May Gladys Stanning, and second son of the late John Stanning of Leyland, Lancashire. The Memorial Service was held at Osmaston Church, near Ashbourne, Derbyshire, on Monday, February 13th, at 2.30 p.m'.

The fourth child, Henry (or Harry) Duncan Stanning was another attendee at Trinity College, Cambridge, before he went to Africa with his father on the ill-fated trip to Egypt. He then spent three years in cricket playing for Lancashire from 1906 until 1908. Then with his younger brother Charles Gordon Stanning he went to Kenya where they set up a farming homestead.

So, as mentioned above, the two brothers were not in this country for the 1911 census. In fact, accordingly to a recent search on Google they could be found in Nakuru around this time. The source says 'Nakuru, a hot dusty cow town, where the hotel bar was the scene of a famous fight between the Stanning brothers and a family of Boers, the Van Klypers'.

An interesting diary kept by Sam Darling (the brother of Henry Duncan Stanning's wife) about this period tells more of the Stanning story, the book is now held in the University of Toronto, with a copy available online.

Sam Darling's Reminiscences

The next in (our) family is Violet, now Mrs. Duncan Stanning, whose husband played cricket for Lancashire. She left with her brother, Douglas, for East Africa in the summer of 1912, and on the voyage she met her husband. I followed them out in the first week in January 1913, and on the voyage Mr. John Stanning, brother of Duncan, became my stable companion. When we arrived at Mombasa, to my surprise my daughter came on board, announcing that she was engaged, and if I approved would I give her away while I was out there.

Her fiancé was on board, and she would introduce him. Presently Messrs. Duncan and John Stanning came walking up the deck together - as un-expected as neither John nor myself knew anything of the engagement until we met at Mombasa - and I need hardly say that I quickly thought Duncan the best of good fellows, and within a few days I gave him my daughter, and they were married at Nairobi. They are now farming in a large way (maize, beans, etc.) near Nakuru in Uganda, with success; also coffee and cocoa, etc.

According to his college records, Henry Duncan Stanning served in the Great War (1914 - 1918) with the Gold Coast Regiment as an interpreter in East Africa. His only son, John Duncan Stanning was born in Kenya in 1915. Henry Duncan died in Nakuru on 5th March 1946.

The fifth child, Charles Gordon Stanning, has left few records save to say he married Marjorie Nottidge in 1917 and there were three children, Joan, David and Tom born in the 1920s. Marjorie died in 1943 and Charles lived in Nakuru until his death on 23rd May 1947.

The three brothers, John, Henry Duncan and Charles Gordon Stanning together with his wife Marjorie are all buried in the Nakuru North Cemetery in Kenya.



The three brothers, John, Henry Duncan and Charles Gordon Stanning together with his wife Marjorie are all buried in the Nakuru North Cemetery in Kenya.

As previously mentioned, the sixth child, Andrew, only lived six days, so the seventh child must have had a special place in the family. She was the second daughter, Frances Helen Stanning, who married Richard Wood-Samuel on 14th January, 1917, at St Wilfrid's, Harrogate. In the 1911 census, Richard was the Clerk in Holy Orders, Reader of the Chapel Royal, Savoy London living at the time in Holly House, Belle Grove, Welling, Kent. It can be assumed that Harriet Sarah, John junior's widow was staying with Frances Helen when she died in 1916.

Richard and Frances Helen had no children and they retired to Tunbridge Wells in Kent, where he died on 3rd November, 1939, and Frances Helen lived on until 28th December, 1963.

There we must leave the Stannings as the subsequent generations are still around to this day. While this article started as a simple add-on to Michael's article it has taken on a life of its own with the use of Google and records from all over the world telling the story of a Leyland family.

PETER HOUGHTON

Notes:

Parts One, Two and Four - Peter Houghton

Part Three - Michael Park

¹ *Halliwell* was once a village outside Bolton which eventually became part of Little Bolton. 'Little Bolton' was actually larger than Bolton being the old name for the rural district around Bolton with its own town hall which later became a small museum.

² *Croft, Crofting, Crofter* - the local meaning of the word 'croft' is an area of land where cloth is bleached'

Our Bank Holiday Trip to Saltaire and Bradford



Sir Titus Salt's Mill



Inside the Congregational Church



The Congregational Church



A walking tour
and a talk about
the village
of
Saltaire



Houses built for the Mill workers



National Media Museum, Bradford



Inside the photographer's studio in the Museum

Leyland Historical Society

Programme 2013 - 2014

Meetings to be held in
The Shield Room, Banqueting Suite, Civic Centre,
West Paddock, Leyland
at 7.30 pm

2013

Monday, 2nd September
Leyland – The View from Above
Peter Houghton

Monday, 7th October*
Don't Shoot the Messenger
The Story of the Postal
Service
Mikron Theatre Company

Monday, 4th November
Lost Farms of Brinscall Moor
David Clayton

Monday, 2nd December
Blunders and Bloomers
17th Century Historical Cock-ups
Lizzy Jones

2014

Monday, 6th January
The Peterloo Massacre
Robert Poole

Monday, 3rd February
Excavations at Angel Meadow,
Manchester
Chris Wild

2014 (cont'd)

Monday, 3rd March*
'Jone O'Grinfilt'
The Song of the 19th Century
Sid Calderbank

Monday, 7th April
Bringing Back Brindle Workhouse
Bernard Fleming



Monday, 5th May
Ninth Annual
Historical Society
Trip
to Hull

Monday, 2nd June
Bomber Command
Peter W Cunliffe

Monday, 7th July
Annual General Meeting
and
Members' Evening

All meetings are free to members
Visitors £3.00
Meetings marked * visitors pay £7.00