



Bill Pitcher

I began working at Leyland Motors in 1969 and served a four-year technician apprenticeship. After working in the axle assembly shop at Farington Works for two years I gained a placement in the Research and Development Department at Spurrier Works as an engine test technician.

I continued in this role, experiencing all the changes of ownership, nationalisation, de-nationalisation and the merger with DAF. As well as general engine performance and endurance development I specialised in the measurement of exhaust emissions and was also involved in axle and transmission testing working on a variety of projects including the New York Atlanteans, Leyland National and DROPS and T244 military vehicles.

In 1993 Leyland-DAF entered receivership but I continued to work in the same role for a management buyout team and I eventually ended up working at the Leyland Technical Centre that went through four changes of ownership while I was there!

During my career I tested not only Leyland engines, but those manufactured by Cummins, JCB, Perkins, Rolls Royce, Lister-Petter, Bentley, Aston Martin, Land Rover...

I have had a lifelong interest in commercial vehicles and particularly Leyland's and I enjoy my involvement with The Leyland Society helping to administer the Society Facebook page and contributing to the Society publication Leyland Torque.

Bill Pitcher. December 2022