



Don Hilton

My interest in transport started in 1941 when I was evacuated to Northamptonshire and discovered Steam railways and Midland Red buses.

I left school at fifteen and started an apprenticeship with London Transport at Chiswick Bus Works as a coachbuilder. I later transferred to Aldenham Works to finish my time.

Having completed my apprenticeship at 21 I went into the army with the REME and during this period I travelled around the country a lot and found many more bus companies to glean more information from. On leaving the army I went to work for Leyland at Borehamwood depot in the parts department which was a massive place and did all kinds of work for London and the home counties. I also undertook the final work on vehicles about to be exported. After a few years, I was assigned to Luton corporation and ran their parts operation which was mainly Leyland PD2 and a few Crossleys. By attending many bus company meetings I was able to get a very deep knowledge into the different ways of running the fleets and made many contacts in such companies.

I left there when United Coaches took over the bus side and I undertook various positions in the vehicle industry finally winding up at Ford Motorsport competitions dept. at Boreham in Essex.

At 61 I started my own company supplying Ford Race and Rally engines and all the associated parts. I finally retired 6 years ago and started to get more involved with the Leyland Society with very many extended visits to BCVM at Leyland collating all of the records held there and continually updating the Leyland Society chassis records

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