



## **Mike Sutcliffe**

Having recently retired at the age of 74 from running my own practice as a Chartered Accountant, I now have even more time to devote to my interest in all forms of road transport and in particular the first half of the twentieth century, the older the better! This includes a passionate interest in Leyland Motors and its products which started as a young boy with school holidays in Todmorden, West Yorkshire, the home of all my grandparents. Over the last 65 years I have collected an enormous amount information, records and photographs, now also having nearly 200,000 digitised images of high quality, all of which are made freely available to The Leyland Society to provide material for our magazines.

Being Founder Member No.3, I've been Secretary of the Society and Editor of the magazines since the beginning and have now produced over one hundred. With these, the emphasis has been on in-depth research, high quality articles and photographs, and a professional presentation – in fact we are regularly complimented on the quality of our magazines, particularly for a small one marque organisation.

Having bought my first vehicle for preservation in 1959, I've now restored eleven vehicles, including nine Leyland buses, restoring them from totally derelict wrecks to the highest possible standards, totally authentic and capable of winning the most prestigious of awards – outright winner of the London-Brighton Run six times, runner up three times, twice winner of the Scania Transport Trust Awards and many more. In 2004, I was fortunate to be awarded the MBE by the Queen for "Services to Motor Heritage". I have built my own house on two occasions, also to include three large garages for the buses.

It is now my intention to dispose of these early Leylands to established museums, partly by way of "living legacies", to ensure their safe future in this country and for people to enjoy – seven of them have now found new homes in London, Bedfordshire and Derbyshire. These include the oldest British-built bus (1908), the oldest of only two surviving genuine charabancs, the most famous of the London "Pirate" buses, and what is probably the oldest single-decker bus in the World.

Mike Sutcliffe. June 2020