

## LEO Computers Society: Oral History Project

The LEO Computers Society has initiated an Oral History Project assisted by funding from the Association for Information Technology (AIT) Trust. *Recordings and edited transcripts are held in LEO Dropbox archives. They can be accessed and downloaded by selected members of LEO Computers Society only.* **The list of Oral Histories taken to-date (January 2016) includes:**

- **Interviewee:** Alan Sercombe **DOB:** 1934  
**Interviewer:** John Hoey  
**Date of Interview:** 23/07/2014  
**Role in LEO:** Programmer  
**Joined LEO:** 1959  
**Abstract:** Alan received degree in mathematics and after National Service joined Armstrong Siddeley as a programmer on a Ferranti Mark I. The company's merger with another aircraft manufacturer led to his leaving and joining LEO. He worked on the LEO II at Standard Motors, but in 1963 joined Peter Gyngell in Australia working with a number of LEO computers sold in Australia and later with EELM and then ICL; finishing his career in 1996 as a very senior member of the successor companies working in an administrative and legal capacity.  
**Repository:** Audio Recording: Dropbox: Part1:  
[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Alan+Sercombe+Part+1+audio.mp3&qsid=31162631801321269845628828947601&query=alan+sercombe&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Alan+Sercombe+Part+1+audio.mp3&qsid=31162631801321269845628828947601&query=alan+sercombe&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)  
**Part 2:**  
[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Alan+Sercombe+Part+2+audio.mp3&qsid=31162631801321269845628828947601&query=alan+sercombe&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Alan+Sercombe+Part+2+audio.mp3&qsid=31162631801321269845628828947601&query=alan+sercombe&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)  
**Recording:** MP3/4  
**Text:** Edited Transcripts, Part 1 and 2  
Dropbox [https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Alan+Sercombe+edited+P2.docx&qsid=10543217434440878150799352370356&query=alan+sercombe&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Alan+Sercombe+edited+P2.docx&qsid=10543217434440878150799352370356&query=alan+sercombe&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)  
**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society
  
- **Interviewee:** John Daines **DOB:** 28<sup>th</sup> July 1943  
**Interviewer:** Ray Hennessy  
**Date of Interview:** 26/04/2012  
**Role in LEO:** Computer Operator  
**Joined LEO:** October 1961  
**Abstract:** John was an operator in the LEO II bureau and then did acceptance trials for LEO III systems in the Minerva Road factory before moving onto System 4 trials and software development. His oral history covers the role of operators in the early days. He progressed through ICL until retirement as a senior consultant in 2002.  
Active member of LEO Computers Society  
**Repository:** Audio Recording: Dropbox:  
[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=John+Daines+audio.wav&qsid=85116196848144396245617180699123&query=john+daines&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=John+Daines+audio.wav&qsid=85116196848144396245617180699123&query=john+daines&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Edited Text:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=John+Daines+Edited+P2.odt&qsid=55626073051723543599179871883696&query=john+daines&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=John+Daines+Edited+P2.odt&qsid=55626073051723543599179871883696&query=john+daines&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Recording:** MP3/4

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

□ **Interviewee:** Simon Benedictus      **DOB:** 1933

**Interviewer:** David Phillips

**Date of Interview:** 17.04.2012

**Role in LEO:** Statistician

**Joined LEO:**

**Abstract:** Mathematics degree from Imperial College, followed after National Service by Masters in Statistics from LSE. Joined Lyons Maid (Ice Cream division of J. Lyons) working on weather based Ice Cream forecasting. Helped define LEO Ice Cream sales job, later working on bakery sales. Remained an employee of J. Lyons.

**Repository:** Partially edited Transcript: Dropbox:

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Simon+Benedictus+Unedited.doc&qsid=28924991798288976813310853533124&query=simon+benedictus&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Simon+Benedictus+Unedited.doc&qsid=28924991798288976813310853533124&query=simon+benedictus&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Recording:**      *Part 1:*

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/LEO%20Oral%20History%20project/LEO%20Oral%20History%20Recordings/Simon%20Benedictus%20interview?preview=BENIDICTUS+PT1.m4a>

*Part 2:*

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/LEO%20Oral%20History%20project/LEO%20Oral%20History%20Recordings/Simon%20Benedictus%20interview?preview=BENIDICTUS+PT2.m4a>

**Recording:** MP3/4

**Text:** Dropbox Unedited Transcripts Part 1

&2 [https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Simon+Benedictus+Unedited.doc&qsid=28523817330004498807401206891638&query=simon&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Simon+Benedictus+Unedited.doc&qsid=28523817330004498807401206891638&query=simon&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

□ **Interviewee:** Roger Coleman      **DOB:** 1932

**Interviewer:** Tim-Greening Jackson

**Date of Interview:** 22.05.2008

**Role in LEO:** Computer Programmer, Systems Analyst

**Joined LEO:** December 1954

**Abstract:** Roger left Mill Hill school in 1950 to self-study to become an actuary but in 1954 responded to an advertisement for a programmer job at Cadby Hall. Joined LEO aged 22, the then youngest programmer. Rapid progress led to him being given the British Rail station to station distancing job working with John Gosden under David Caminer. The oral history is confined to his early career and the details of the BR job. A text-only Part 1 to the composite oral history provides a summary of his career to retirement. His career after leaving LEO in 1957 included managing the LEO 2/9 at Ilford Limited, working for Ford Motor Company and rising to head much

of their European Computer organisation, and finishing his career as a private consultant.

**Repository:** Audio Recording: Dropbox:

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Roger+Coleman+unedited.pdf&qsid=92892594060940537749377287578228&query=roger+coleman&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkels7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Roger+Coleman+unedited.pdf&qsid=92892594060940537749377287578228&query=roger+coleman&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkels7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Composite Oral History:** Dropbox:

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Roger+Coleman+Composite+edited+P2.doc&qsid=92892594060940537749377287578228&query=roger+coleman&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkels7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Roger+Coleman+Composite+edited+P2.doc&qsid=92892594060940537749377287578228&query=roger+coleman&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkels7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Recording:** Windows Media Player

**Copyright:** Tim Greening-Jackson, but unrestricted access permitted subject to due acknowledgements.

**Restrictions:** None Known

- **Interviewee:** Alan King **DOB:** August 1936  
**Interviewer:** Tony Morgan **Died** 2017  
**Date of Interview:** 16.08.2011  
**Role in Lyons:** Systems Research Office, then Lyons Computer Services  
**Joined Lyons:** Autumn 1959

**Abstract:** Alan studied Classics at Oxford and on graduating was taken on by Lyons in their Systems Research Office. A career working on a number of the Lyons LEO application followed by a senior role in Lyons Systems Services, formed to develop and service computer applications first on LEO machines and later when Lyons replaced LEO with IBM computers. Acting Chief Executive Institute of Administrative Management.

**Repository:**

**Text:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/LEO%20Oral%20History%20project/Leo%20Interviews?preview=Alan+King+edited+P2.doc> –

**Edited Text:**

**Dropbox.** <https://www.dropbox.com/home/LEO%20Oral%20History%20project/LEOSoc%20Oral%20History%20file%20uploads?preview=Alan+King+edited+P2.doc>

**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.

**Restrictions:** None known

- **Interviewee:** Ray Hennessy **DOB:** December 1934  
**Interviewer:** John Daines **Died** November 2016  
**Date of Interview:** 27.04.2012  
**Role in Lyons:** Programmer  
**Joined Lyons:** 1959

**Abstract:** Joined as trainee programmer after being offered jobs by Elliott computing and English Electric.. Worked on many projects including British Oxygen. Despite temptation to join other companies remained with LEO and its successor companies working in a senior capacity on a number of Government projects and after retirement working as a consultant to ICL and its associated companies. Active in LEO Computers Society until his death.

**Repository:**

**Text:** Partially edited transcript in dropbox

<https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Ray+Hennessy+edited+>

[P2.doc&qsid=07905257361119047631689560727569&query=ray+hennessy&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Ray+Hennessy&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Recording:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Ray+Hennessy+audio.wav&qsid=07905257361119047631689560727569&query=ray+hennessy&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Ray+Hennessy+audio.wav&qsid=07905257361119047631689560727569&query=ray+hennessy&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.

**Restrictions:** None known

□ **Interviewee: Tony Morgan**

**DOB:** June 1937

**Interviewer:** Ray Hennessy

**Date of Interview:** 08.11.2011

**Role in Lyons:** Commissioning Engineer

**Joined Lyons:** December 1947

**Abstract:** Joined LEO as engineer. Spent most of his career as commissioning engineer on LEO IIs and IIIs, finishing as senior commissioning engineer. In retirement LEO Computer Society's expert on all matters relating to LEO hardware. Active Member of LEO Computers Society

**Text Repository:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Tony+Morgan+edited+P2.doc&qsid=06562942885418735087845356680765&query=tony+morgan&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Tony+Morgan+edited+P2.doc&qsid=06562942885418735087845356680765&query=tony+morgan&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Text:** Transcript being currently edited by Tony Morgan

**Recording:**

**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.

**Restrictions:** None known

□ **Interviewee: Bob Gibson**

**DOB:** 18<sup>th</sup> May 1927

**Interviewer:** Martin Garthwaite  
2016

**Died:** August

**Date of Interview:**

**Role in LEO:** Manager training and customer support

**Joined LEO:** February 1956:

**Abstract:** Trained as electronic engineer as part of National Service. After working as an electronic research engineer in Civil Service, recruited by LEO as trainee maintenance engineer. Took responsibility for training customer engineers and rose to oversee all LEO training as well as managing engineering maintenance services/ Briefly left LEO to become management consultant but returned to become head of customer services for EELM. Retired 1988.

**Repository:** Unedited transcript of recording in Dropbox

at <https://www.dropbox.com/home/LEO%20Oral%20History%20project/LEOSoc%20Oral%20History%20file%20uploads?preview=bob+gibson+unedited+transcript.doc> Edited Transcript in Dropbox at

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Bob+Gibson+edited+P2.doc&qsid=21711540675593191009762985903592&query=bob+gibson&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Bob+Gibson+edited+P2.doc&qsid=21711540675593191009762985903592&query=bob+gibson&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Recording:**

**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.

**Restrictions:** None known

- **Interviewee: Doug Comish** **DOB: 1926**  
**Interviewer:** Martin Garthwaite  
**Date of Interview:** 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
**Joined Lyons:** December 1949  
**Role in Lyons:** Management Trainee to management accountant  
**Joined LEO:** April 1956  
**Role in LEO:** Programming, and education to head of marketing  
**Abstract:** Born in Liverpool, educated at grammar school, took Mathematics at Kings College, Cambridge. Then National Service finishing with rank of Captain. Joined Lyons as a Management Trainee in 1949, rose to management rank in the Lyons Work Office as cost accountant. Selected to join LEO in 1956. Long and distinguished career with many roles including education, staff selection, sales and marketing finishing as head of marketing before retirement. Active sportsman, including playing soccer for Cambridge University.

**Repository:**  
**Text:** Dropbox Edited  
Transcript [https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Doug+Comish+edited+P2.docx&qsid=62813332913772013628023522491317&query=doug+comish&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Doug+Comish+edited+P2.docx&qsid=62813332913772013628023522491317&query=doug+comish&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)  
**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.  
**Restrictions:** None known
  
- **Interviewee: Steve Farrow** **DOB:**  
**Interviewer:** Martin Garthwaite  
**Date of Interview:**  
**Role in LEO:** Commissioning and Design Engineer  
**Joined LEO:** Spring 1957  
**Abstract:** Took Science degree at Imperial College after national service in RAF. Joined LEO after seeing an advertisement. Steve worked as a commissioning engineer first on LEO II machines including commissioning the Bull Printer on LEO II/3 and subsequently on LEO II machines. Achieved rank of Chief Engineer for LEO III. Involved in design of the abandoned LEO IV after merger with English Electric. Subsequent career from 1965 with Medical Research Council working as a design engineer.

**Repository:** Edited transcript  
[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Steve+Farrow+edited+P2.odt&qsid=63426424578581135909584747883713&query=steve+farrow&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Steve+Farrow+edited+P2.odt&qsid=63426424578581135909584747883713&query=steve+farrow&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Recording:**  
**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.  
**Restrictions:** None known
  
- **Interviewee: Ray Shaw** **DOB: 17<sup>th</sup> April 1924**  
**Interviewer-** Martin Garthwaite  
**Date of Interview:** 2013  
**Role in LEO:** Design Engineer, Project Manager  
**Joined LEO:** 1949
  
- **Interviewee: Ray Shaw** **DOB: 17<sup>th</sup> April 1924**

**Interviewer:** John Daines

**Date of Interview:** 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**Role in LEO:** Design Engineer, Project Manager

**Joined LEO:** 1949

**Abstract:** Joined Pinkerton as a design engineer, rising to senior design engineer for LEO I and II. Left LEO in 1956 to work with John Bennet in Australia at Sydney University. A distinguished career as project manager and design engineer with ICL followed including work on communication Systems. Retired in 1981 but carried on working as private consultant.

**Repository:** Dropbox

**Text:** Unedited Transcript located at

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Ray+Shaw+by+John+Daines+unedited.docx&qsid=18439443641769828588990205651972&query=ray+shaw&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5glkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Ray+Shaw+by+John+Daines+unedited.docx&qsid=18439443641769828588990205651972&query=ray+shaw&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5glkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Recording:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Ray+Shaw+interview+with+John+Daines+Sept+27th+2016.WAV&qsid=18439443641769828588990205651972&query=ray+shaw&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5glkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Ray+Shaw+interview+with+John+Daines+Sept+27th+2016.WAV&qsid=18439443641769828588990205651972&query=ray+shaw&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5glkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.

**Restrictions:** None known

**Interviewee:** Neil Lamming

**DOB:** 1938

**Interviewer:** Martin Garthwaite

**Date of Interview:** 31.01.2012

**Role in LEO:** Programmer, Consultant, Manager

**Joined LEO :** 1960

**Abstract:** As a mathematics graduate Neil chose LEO when offered jobs in the computing industry. Started work at Hartree House working on Army Payroll, joined team at Renold Chains and subsequently recruited to join Peter Gynge in Australia. Rapid rise post merger to become Managing Director of ICL Australia at age 37. Left company to work on executive recruitment and retired at age 50.

**Repository:**

**Text:** Dropbox. Edited Transcript

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Neil+Lamming+edited+P2.docx&qsid=13314278810110130718813652649947&query=neil+lamming&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5glkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Neil+Lamming+edited+P2.docx&qsid=13314278810110130718813652649947&query=neil+lamming&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5glkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Recording:**

**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.

**Restrictions:** None known

**Interviewee:** Margaret Baty

**DOB:**

**Interviewer:** Peter Byford

**Date of Interview:** October, 2015

**Role Lyons:**

**Joined Lyons:**

**Abstract:**

**Repository:**

**Text:**

**Recording:**



**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.  
**Restrictions:**

**Interviewee:** Ernest Roberts

**DOB:** 1931

**Interviewer:** Ray Hennessy

**Date of Interview:** April 2016

**Joined LEO:** 1954

**Abstract:** Joined LEO following Mathematics degree at Oxford University and National Service. Started as programmer under Leo Fantl working on mainly mathematical applications on LEO I. Spend whole career with LEO and successor companies as a senior application and software programmer retiring aged 60.

**Repository:** Transcript of recording and first edit of transcript (Alan Hooker) in Dropbox [https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Ernest+Roberts+edited+P2.doc&qsid=07744281890109968756581823532303&query=ernest+roberts&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5glkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Ernest+Roberts+edited+P2.doc&qsid=07744281890109968756581823532303&query=ernest+roberts&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5glkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Recording:**

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions** None known

**Interviewee:** Derek Jolly

**DOB:** 1930

**Interviewer:** Cyril Platman  
2018

Died June

**Date of Interview:** 11th April 2016

**Joined LEO:** Circa 1953-55

**Abstract:** After grammar school started training as an accountant, but decided to try something else and was interviewed by David Caminer, and Tony Barnes and offered a job with LEO I as an operator. Worked on LEO I, LEO II and LEO III. Became shift leader and then Chief Operator. Left LEO in 1974 to join Access at Southend. Retired aged 60.

**Repository:** Edited transcript of recording in Dropbox [https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Derek+Jolly+edited+P2.doc&qsid=26418865507404425279799032559688&query=derek+jolly&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5glkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Derek+Jolly+edited+P2.doc&qsid=26418865507404425279799032559688&query=derek+jolly&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5glkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Recording:**

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions** None known

**Interviewee:** Peter Bird

**DOB:** 1934

**Interviewer:** Tony Morgan

**Died:** September 2017

**Date of Interview:** 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**Joined Lyons:** 1964

**Abstract:** After a career in the Merchant Navy achieving his Masters certificate 'discovered' computing, studied programming and applied for Jobs in computing. Interviewed by Lyons for an operator job and joined Lyons 1964 as an operator on the LEO III. Promoted rapidly to Operations Manager, then overall Systems Manager. After retirement became interested in the history of Lyons and in the LEO story resulting in the publication of his books on LEO and subsequently on Lyons the Food Empire.

**Repository:** Edited Interview Transcript

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Peter+Bird+edited+P2.odt&qsid=39281849731538282739464284144902&query=peter+bird&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Peter+Bird+edited+P2.odt&qsid=39281849731538282739464284144902&query=peter+bird&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Recording:**

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions:** None known

**Interviewee:** Peter Wharton

**DOB:** 1941

**Interviewer:** John Daines

**Date of Interview:** November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016

**Joined LEO:** 1962

**Abstract:** Joined as a mathematical working on linear programming transportation applications. Long career with LEO and its successor companies working at various locations including Hartree House and subsequently Kidsgrove. His work involved hardware and software design as well as applications and he finished with the title of Chief Engineer. Appointed visiting Professor at Southampton University. Regarded his early learning of CLEO as a key step in his understanding of design in his later career.

**Repository:** Unedited

transcript: [https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Peter+Wharton+unedited.docx&qsid=39281849731538282739464284144902&query=peter+wharton&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Peter+Wharton+unedited.docx&qsid=39281849731538282739464284144902&query=peter+wharton&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Recording:** Part 1 and 2 MP3

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Peter+Wharton+Part+1+audio.MP3&qsid=39281849731538282739464284144902&query=peter+wharton&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Peter+Wharton+Part+1+audio.MP3&qsid=39281849731538282739464284144902&query=peter+wharton&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D) and

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Peter+Wharton+Part+2+audio.MP3&qsid=39281849731538282739464284144902&query=peter+wharton&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Peter+Wharton+Part+2+audio.MP3&qsid=39281849731538282739464284144902&query=peter+wharton&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions:** None known

**Interviewee:** Paul

Dixon

1928

**DOB:** September 29<sup>th</sup>

**Interviewer:** Mike Storey

**Date of Interview:** 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Transcribed 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

**Joined LEO:** 1955

**Role in LEO:** Programmer, Consultant

**Abstract:** Paul Dixon, a refugee from Czechoslovakia (Prague) in 1947, graduated from Manchester University with an honours degree in Economics and Politics. Intrigued by an advertisement for programmers, applied, was interviewed by Peter Hermon and joined LEO Computers as a programmer. Although only with LEO for two years had a rapid rise ranging over a range of applications. Joined Roger Coleman at LEO II customer Ilford's. Emigrated to Canada and later the USA for a career in computing, including very senior, and prominent positions with major companies.



**Repository:** Edited Transcript in Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/LEO%20Oral%20History%20project/LEOSoc%20Oral%20History%20file%20uploads?preview=PAUL+DIXON+edited+P2.docx>

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions:** None Known

- Interviewee:** Michael Mills

**DOB:** 1935

**Interviewer:** David Phillips

**Date of Interview:** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**Joined LEO:** 1958

**Role in LEO:** Maintenance Engineer LEO II

**Abstract:** A lively, chatty interview full of personal anecdotes relating to his life and work experiences. Concentrated on Maths at School and awarded scholarship to Cambridge. But opted to do National Service in Royal Signals, for two years, rising to rank of Lance Corporal. Opted for a degree in Physics at University of Birmingham, graduating with II/1. Saw LEO advert for engineers, taken on at Minerva Road and after training school became maintenance engineer on a range of LEO/II's. Spent 3 years with LEO, then joined Honeywell as manager of software development. Subsequent career with Rank Xerox in marketing, as consultant with CACI, then working with James Martin and after a spell in Australia (1997), set up as independent consultant before retirement.

**Transcribed:** February 2017

**Edited** March 2017

**Repository:** Dropbox

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Michael+Mills+edited+P2.doc&qsid=62766657683312337088935222380943&query=michael+mills&search\\_to\\_ken=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Michael+Mills+edited+P2.doc&qsid=62766657683312337088935222380943&query=michael+mills&search_to_ken=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions:** None known

- Interviewee:** Patrick Blakes

**DOB:** 1938

**Interviewer:** Cyril Platman

**Date of Interview:** 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Joined LEO:** 1958

**Role in LEO:** Commissioning and Maintenance Engineer LEO I and LEO III

**Abstract:** Received background training in Electronics doing his National Service in the Royal Air Force. Decided on career in that field after seeing an advert for trainee engineers from LEO. After training worked first as commissioning engineer on LEO II/7 then became site maintenance engineer on LEO II and LEO III sites including acting as chief engineer on Ilford's LEO III. Retired from ICL in 1969 to join an independent computer maintenance company working on LEO machines.

**Edited Transcript:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Patrick+Blakes+edited+P2.doc&qsid=66660779201437156227048281367520&query=patrick+blakes&search\\_to\\_ken=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Patrick+Blakes+edited+P2.doc&qsid=66660779201437156227048281367520&query=patrick+blakes&search_to_ken=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions:** None known

- Interviewee: Ian White  
November 1930

DOB: 19<sup>th</sup>

Interviewer: Mike Hally

Date of Interview: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Transcribed: 27<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Editor: Bob Marsh received copy for editing 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Joined LEO: Summer 1955

Role in LEO: Design Engineer on LEO II

**Abstract:** Studies Natural Sciences at St Andrews, specially interested in Electronics. Commissioned in REME and posted to teach at Shrivenham, On discharge interviewed by Pinkerton and joined LEO engineering team in Olaf Street. Left LEO for a career in electronic control devices, but retained an interest in LEO. Joined LEO Computers Society and started collecting LEO memorabilia

**Edited Transcript:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Ian+White+edited+P2.doc&qsid=07044367727534149534144072593442&query=ian+white&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Ian+White+edited+P2.doc&qsid=07044367727534149534144072593442&query=ian+white&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions:** None known

- Interviewee: Tony Earnshaw  
1935

DOB: 8<sup>th</sup> November

Interviewer: David Phillips

Joined LEO: Not clear. Worked on LEO III/6 Shell-Mex and BP in 1965 as part of site engineering team

Role in LEO: Maintenance Engineer

Date of Interview: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Transcribed: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**Editor:** David Phillips is undertaking a first edit of the transcript of a very confusing and chronologically muddled interview. Tony Earnshaw will be asked to re-edit the revised script.

**Abstract:** Worked as untrained TV repair man in 1950s, Spotted by passing LEO engineer, invited to apply to LEO. Started work as assistant to site engineers on the Shell-Mex and BP LEO III in Hemel Hempstead. Prides himself on his successful career as an engineer without having acquired any qualifications. Rose to be chief site engineer at Minerva Road responsible for seven sites. Left ICL to become independent engineer,

**Transcript: first edit by David Phillips at**

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Tony+Earnshaw+unedited.docx&qsid=21816248812713184251072359666087&query=tony+earnshaw&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Tony+Earnshaw+unedited.docx&qsid=21816248812713184251072359666087&query=tony+earnshaw&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions:** None known

- Interviewee: Peter Hermon  
November 1928

DOB:

Interviewer: Neville Lyons

Joined LEO: September 1955

Role in LEO: Programmer, Consultant

**Date of Interview: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Transcribed: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Editor: Bob Marsh. Edited version to Dropbox 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

**Abstract:** Peter Hermon joined LEO after he obtained first class honours from St. John's Oxford, and seeing an advertisement for a mathematician from J. Lyons. He was one of the most brilliant LEO recruits and quickly made his mark as a programmer and consultant. He was involved in a number of LEO sales, working first with Wills Tobacco and later with Dunlop Rubber. He joined Dunlop to first run their LEO installation, but subsequently rose to head Dunlop Management Services world-wide. He moved to BOAC where he was responsible for the development of BOADICEA the airline reservation system which became a major UK success story and later became a Director of British Airways. After retirement in 1989 he became an active member of the LEO Foundation, acting as its treasurer. Peter's other interests were walking in North Wales and he has published a number of guides for walking in Wales.

**Location of Transcript:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Peter+Hermon+edited+P2.doc&qsid=96985580077109303538682721508938&query=peter+hermon&search\\_to\\_ken=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Peter+Hermon+edited+P2.doc&qsid=96985580077109303538682721508938&query=peter+hermon&search_to_ken=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Copyright: LEO Computers Society**

**Restrictions: None known**

**Interviewee: Peter Byford**

**DOB: 1944**

**Editor: Frank Land, May 2018**

**Abstract:** Peter had a long career in computing starting when he left Grammar School aged just 17 and following an advertisement applied to LEO Computers Limited. Passing the aptitude test as the sole non-graduate applicant at that time, he was trained as a programmer to work on the LEOIII/1 Hartree Service Bureau. He worked on a number of applications, rising in seniority, but left LEO in 1965 to join the AA as a programmer and data analyst. His subsequent career, primarily in Data Management included a 27 year stint at Eastern Gas, followed by the software contractor and consultant John Hoskins, and later as an independent contractor/consultant. Despite his relatively short stint at LEO at the beginning of his career, it is to his LEO roots he returned on retirement. After attending an early LEO reunion he took over the chair of the LEO Computers Society, and oversaw its growth to over 800 members (May 2018), and continues to fill that role with undiminished enthusiasm.

**Interviewee: Geoff Pye**

**DOB: 1932**

**Interviewer: Paul Bygrave**

**Date of Interview: 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2017**

**Editor: Frank Land**

**Joined LEO: 1956**

**Abstract** Geoff Pye was brought up in near Ilford, East London, took a degree in Geography at Kings College, University of London, and after 2 years National Service, looked to start a career as a Management Trainee. Applying to Lyons amongst other companies he was diverted to the fledgling LEO organisation, Interviewed by Ted Rowley and David Caminer he was impressed took the aptitude test and was offered a job as a programming trainee under the tutelage of Leo Fantl. After a period rising in the programming/system ranks, including secondment to the MPNI LEO II/6 in Newcastle changed tack to running computer operations taking charge of first of the London LEO

service bureaux and subsequently the EELM and ICL bureau operations. Following a brief interlude working for consultants John Hoskyns returned to ICL as a<sup>[1]</sup> senior manager for BARIC the joint service bureau company set up by ICL and Barclays Bank. As batch services were sold off to be replaced by INS - the ICL network services company Geoff took up the reins. More senior jobs in operations followed before retirement age 60.

**Repository Recording:** stored as 8 fragments

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5f5ev5z1stpyyb/GeoffPye1%201m.mp3?dl=0>  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qah0uvxbvnkn7s0/GeoffPye2%2011m.mp3?dl=0>  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/o6703pvd7jkr5m8/GeoffPye3%205m.mp3?dl=0>  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0v3ln4rbma53ldn/GeoffPye4%205m.mp3?dl=0>  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/in6ac1fbyi19ug6/GeoffPye5%2012m.mp3?dl=0>  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/pqqj21fv98r84u9/GeoffPye6%2020m.mp3?dl=0>  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/owt7yccso3p1gwi/GeoffPye7%2028m.mp3?dl=0>  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/1xcxz6idfxgqh5a/GeoffPye8%2021m.mp3?dl=0>

**Repository Edited Transcript:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3khrmoj1cn7njr/Geoff%20Pye%20edited%20P2.docx?dl=0>

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions:** None known

**Interviewee:** Mike Gifford

**DOB:** 1936

**Interviewer:** Dag Spicer

**Date of Interview:** 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**Editors:** Bob Marsh (P1) and Frank Land (p2) Nov 2017

**Joined LEO:** 1959 or 1960

**Role in LEO:** Started as temporary assistant at Minerva Road, then trained as consultant at Hartree House and rose rapidly working as consultant in a variety of locations including the Midlands, North West London ICL region. Finishing work with ICL as Chief Executive of ICL Australia for two and a half years, before leaving computer industry.

**Left LEO/ICL:** 1975

**Abstract:** After Grammar School education opted for National Service in Royal Navy before taking his place at University. Seconded to work in Aircraft Carriers and specialised in meteorology. Following two years National Service went to London School of Economics for a B.Sc. in Economics. Greatly influenced by Karl Popper's ideas on Scientific Methods. His father suggested looking for a job up in a rising industry – either computing or microbiology. Selected computing and following an advertisement started a temporary job with LEO at Minerva Road. See above for role in LEO which included working as the LEO consultant with customers such as Cerebos Salt. Tote Investors, Eveready Batteries and Heinz and abroad the Czech steelworks. Identified early as potential high flyer by David Caminer. Following the merger with ICL he took charge of one of the major marketing regions. Following a number of senior appointments was Appointed Managing Director ICL Australia (1974). After a successful two and a half years left the Computer Industry on appointment as Managing Director of the newly merged Cadbury Schweppes Australia Company. More senior management positions followed back in the UK culminating in being appointed Chief Executive of the Rank

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[ 1 ]

Organisation, an enterprise he transformed from an ailing enterprise to be highly successful.

**Repository Recording:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/1fds7jfcfg947r2/Mike\\_Gifford\\_audio.mp3?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/1fds7jfcfg947r2/Mike_Gifford_audio.mp3?dl=0)

**Repository Edited Transcript:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/91r66nu6cpgczts/Mike%20Gifford%20edited%20P2.doc?dl=0>

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions:** None Known

**Interviewee:** Jean Elliott

(Cox)

**DOB:**

**Interviewer:** Elisabetta Mori

**Joined LEO:** Probably 1948/49 having been a Lyons clerk

**Role in LEO:** Clerical assistant to John Pinkerton

**Abstract:** One of the earliest to join the LEO team as a clerical assistant involved in a variety of tasks such as filing and note taking for the design team comprising John Pinkerton, Ray Shaw Ernest Kaye and Ernest Lenaerts. Even permitted to do some soldering. Always remembers with great fondness working with LEO

**Transcript of Interview:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Jean+Elliott+unedited.docx&qsid=94325109919715945022265514106538&query=jean+elliott&search\\_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D](https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Jean+Elliott+unedited.docx&qsid=94325109919715945022265514106538&query=jean+elliott&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVIUbNhfSkQ%3D)

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions:** None known

**Interviewee:** Alan Hooker

**DOB:** 23rd May 1934

**Interviewer:** Paul Bygrave

**Date of Interview:** 21st November 2018

**Editors:** David Phillips (P1) and Mike Jackson (P2)

**Joined LEO:** May/June 1958

**Role in LEO:** Programmer on LEO I, LEO II and LEO III rising to Programming Manager.

**Left LEO: 1965**

**Abstract:** After failing to take a Physics degree at Bristol University followed by National Service in Royal Engineers as commissioned officer, a chance meeting with a fellow Bristol student Brian Mills who had been recruited by Lyons for LEO, took the LEO aptitude test and after interview by David Caminer joined LEO as a maintenance programmer on LEO I. Worked in Betty Cooper's team whom he describes as one of the best managers he ever worked for. Converted LEO I programmes to run on LEO II, then involved in programming a number of service bureau applications and the Standard Motor LEO II/8. Involved at a more senior level with the LEO III to demonstration to prove to the Post Office LEO IIIs multiprogramming capability. Became Programming Manager leading team of 25 charged with producing standard business routines. Left LEO after merger with English Electric, Moved to DataSolve as Technical Director. Returned to ICL after grand merger as Project Manager at Data Skill.

**Repository recording:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/28h9lcdpny8bh79/Alan%20Hooker%20Part%201.MP3?dl=0>

**Repository edited transcript:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/eneafyy1ezfsfjg/Alan%20Hooker%20edited%20P2.docx?dl=0>

**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.

**Restrictions:** None known

**Interviewee:** Alan Jacobs

**D.O.B.** 16.06.1931

**Interviewer:** David Phillips

**Date of Interview:** 17.10.2018

**Editor:** Frank Land

**Joined LEO:** 1957

**Abstract:** Alan, born in Stoke, took a degree in History at St John's, Oxford, commencing in 1950, after National Service in the RAF and tried a number of jobs as management trainee, but was not inspired by them. Tempted by LEO advert and after interview was invited to join as programmer. Involved with a succession of service jobs rising in seniority. Despite his admiration and like of working at LEO decided to further his career by leaving LEO, first for BEA and then other organisations none of which had the sense of knowing what they were doing he had found at LEO. When the opportunity came in 1962 he re-joined BAOC to join the team being built by Peter Hermon to develop a comprehensive Airline Reservation System. Alan headed a team developing ground-breaking Airline Departure system. Alan left British Airways and was recruited by Sainsbury's as their Director of IT helping to transform the business. After Sainsbury's Alan retired

**Restrictions:** None known

**Archive:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/32q9ll62urvr0k9/Alan%20Jacobs%20edited%20P2.rtf?dl=0>

**Interviewee:** Brian Mills

**DOB:** 1933

**Interviewer:** David Phillips

**Date of Interview:**

**Editor:** Frank Land, September 2018

**Joined LEO:** July 8<sup>th</sup> 1957

**Abstract** After completing Grammar School from a primarily languages stream, Brian completed his National Service of two years in the Royal Corps of Signals with the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant. A degree in Economics from Bristol University followed, completed in 1956. A number of jobs, followed, some in marketing, one teaching Hungarians English for the Coal Board, but none of them wholly satisfactory. Tempted by advert to try for a job with LEO and following interviews by Alan Jacobs and Doug Comish accepted a job offer a trainee programmer joined LEO in July 1957. His programming career started with a number of payroll systems under the tutored by LEO Fantl. Later he joined Leo Fantl in South Africa as systems manager on the LEO III in November 1960. Returned to England after two years to join the consultants' marketing LEO IIIs, and included Freeman's Mail Order amongst his successes. Shortly after the return from South Africa LEO became EELM, a move Brian did not enjoy, deciding to join consultants Coopers and Lybrand. This was the beginning of a long and successful career outside LEO embracing a number of companies, culminating with head of management services for British Oxygen. After leaving British Oxygen Brian set up his own venture capital business



**Interviewee:** John Gardner , FBCS CITP

**D.O.B:** 1937

**Interviewer:** Graham Briscoe

**Date of Interview:** Unusually, because of the Covid-19 lockdown, the oral history consists of answers to questions sent by the interviewer in March 2020.

**Editor:** Frank Land

**Abstract:** Trained as an apprentice engineer and spent 7 years working with EMI. Saw advert from LEO for engineer but wanted to leave engineering and applied to join LEO as a bureau programmer at Hartree House. Joined LEO in 1962 just as LEO ii/5 was being phased out for LEO III/1. Worked, using first Intercode, then CLEO on a number of bureau applications including Heinz production control, and on the transfer of the Heinz bureau jobs from LEO II to their own LEO III. Progressed rapidly becoming responsible for payroll and share registration applications. With the long-term future of LEO dubious enticed to Honeywell (UK) by a job offer that could not be refused, to work on their H200 operating system. After 7 months I moved on to be a consultant for Hoskyns System Management which was being set up as a subsidiary to Hoskyns Consultancy and where the LEO experience was much more relevant. Worked for them for seven years, but then found that the nomadic life that was required of consultants to advance was not compatible with having a young family so joined London Transport IT where and worked for them for 20 years until retirement.

**Restrictions:** Non known

**Archive:** The full unedited version can be found at

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/otfoy3ojk95t7qp/John%20Gardner%20summary.doc?dl=0>

The edited version is at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/otfoy3ojk95t7qp/John%20Gardner%20summary.doc?dl=0>

**Interviewee:** Barry Fox

**DOB** 1935

**Interviewer:** John Daines

**Date of Interview:** 19th July 2017

**Editors:** David Phillips (P1) and Frank Land (P2)

**Joined LEO installation:** 1958

**Role at LEO:** Programmer

**Left LEO:** 1966

**Abstract:** Graduated from Birmingham University with a Maths degree before National Service in where he learned programming on an Elliott 402 machine. Enjoying programming he applied for a programming job with LEO. His prior programming experience allowed him to pass the LEO aptitude test with ease and after surviving an interview with David Caminer was immediately taken on as a programmer. His programming career started with working on LEO II applications including the Glynn Mills Officers payroll under John Lewis and then progressed to systems software working at Minerva Road. After working on the Intercode translator took a key role in the design and programming of the CLEO compiler for LEO III. After the formation of EELM worked on System 4. Moved to Kidsgrove, keeping up his interest in the design of computer languages and as a result of his expertise was assigned as an EELM representative under John Pinkerton on ECMA. Continued working in this field until in the mid 80s interest in language and compiler design faded and as a result took early retirement at age 55. Whilst at LEO married fellow programmer Margaret James, started family life and had 3 children. In retirement he joined Congleton Sustainability Group and runs a Green Living

course for Congleton U3A, and has acted on his life-long interest in cycling as secretary of the local cycling club.

**Repository recording:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/cm06y5exeddvdbe5/Barry%20Fox%20part%201%20audio.MP3?dl=0> and <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ufo2k5qnkp498n7/Barry%20Fox%20part%202%20audio.MP3?dl=0>

**Repository edited transcript:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/cs65xquzbgwa6ls/Barry%20Fox%20edited%20P2.docx?dl=0>

**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.

**Restrictions:** None known

**Interviewee:** John Durham

**DOB:** 31st August 1939

**Interviewer:** David Phillips

**Date of Interview:** 22.02.2019

**Editors:** Michael and Helen Jackson

**Joined LEO:** 1963

**Role in LEO:** Programmer then sales and marketing

**Left LEO:**

**Abstract:** After a degree in Industrial Economics at Nottingham University University joined LEO, having been impressed by the drive of the team from LEO interviewing him as part of the milk-round recruiting new graduates. By the time he joined as a programmer LEO had merged with English Electric. Worked as part of the team programming the Premium Bond application for the Post Office, but finding himself a not very good programmer acted as informal PA to David Caminer and moved successfully into Sales & Marketing covering Eastern European countries. Later joined Software Sciences as European Marketing Manager. Then formed his own company. The oral history includes fascinating anecdotes of his career with LEO and its successor companies.

**Repository recording:** <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/baux4ivs74xt5gz/AABLR8T8MI-JWsiFobY-D00xa?dl=0>

**Repository edited transcript:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/juwkuicy2uarwk/John%20Durham%20edited%20P2.docx?dl=0>

**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.

**Restrictions:** None known

**Interviewee:** Helen Jackson (Nee Clark)``

**DOB:** June 1936

**Status of Interview:** The Interview is part of LBS Oral History Project but was not a recorded interview, the transcript compiled by interviewer Helen Jackson's husband Michael.

**Interviewer:** Michael Jackson

**Date of Interview:** March 2021

**Editor:** Michael Jackson

**Joined LEO:** September 1957

**Role in LEO:** Application Programmer

**Abstract:** Born in Wigan. After A levels in 1954 went to Manchester University, and graduated in Maths in 1957. Went for job interviews to English Electric, Vickers Aircraft

and LEO. I liked LEO best, particularly the job Appreciation Course, which in those days was a one day elementary programming course and tests on it, with the interview coming after the test results were known, Placed in programming section managed by Jim Smith, which had about 15 programmers working mainly in technical and insurance applications followed in 1961 by being given responsibility for all service bureau application After writing a major programme for husband Mike took part time job as bookkeeper and as such became early user of PC, later concentrated on voluntary work.

**Repository of edited transcript;**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/7wxh6koag45ankayv3b4g/Helen-Jackson-history.docx?dl=0&rlkey=289bn2bq4bsqw2jd0czs2ydrh>

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions:** none known

**Interviewee:** John Page

**DOB:** 1944

**Interviewer:** Dag Spicer, Computer History Museum, CA.

**Date of Interview:** April 11th 2017

**Joined LEO:** 1958?

**Role in LEO:** Commissioning Engineer

**Abstract:** Scholarship boy at St Clements Danes, public School. Interested in radio and electronics as a hobby. Chance encounter with friend working at Lyons led to application to LEO. Did well in LEO aptitude test and offered job as engineering apprentice in Minerva Road. As such worked on various engineering jobs before joining Tony Morgan's commissioning team. Provides fascinating account of way LEO operations worked to ensure to make working computers and working systems. Rose to become chief commissioning engineer on a number of LEO IIIs including Post Office and Czech machines. Left LEO after merger created ICL, but continued his career in computing, but changing from engineering to software management including a spell working for Hewlett Packard and moving to live in US.

**Left LEO:** Made redundant after formation of ICL

**Repository:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/7zc0r18r02glov7/John%20Page%20edited%20P2.doc?dl=0>

**Copyright:** Computer History Museum, CA.

**Restrictions:** None known

**Interviewee:** Brian Grimshaw

**DOB** 24December 1948

**Interviewer:** Mike Hally

**Date of Interview:** 9th February 2021

**Editors:** Mike Tyzack (P1) and Mike Jackson (P2) Mar 2021

Joined LEO installation Shell Mex & BP Wythenshaw: 1967

Role on LEO: Computer Operator starting with offline work, progressing through tape loading to full control of the computer.

Left LEO/Shell:1968

**Abstract:** After Grammar School joined Shell Mex & BP's LEO III as a computer operator. Moved within Shell onto an ICT machine operating, then plug-board programming. Programmed a UNIVAC machine then an IBM 360. Was transferred to documentation. Self employed in Holland then contract programmer. Specialised in security installation and implementation.

Repository recording:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/e1rlb66wzzfxos3/Brian%20Grimshaw%20audio.mp3?dl=0>

Repository edited

transcript:: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/2lgtfxoxe28jmah/Brian%20Grimshaw%20edited%20P2.doc?dl=0>

Copyright: Leo Computers Society.

Restrictions: None known

**Interviewee: Ken Kemp**

**DOB during the war**

**Interviewer: SELF see memoirs and reminiscences below**

**Date of Interview: September 2020**

Joined LEO: September 1964

Role in LEO: Trainee programmer progressing to Head of Systems & Programming

Left LEO: Transferred to BARIC leaving in 1984

Abstract: Following graduation joined as trainee programmer on LEO III at LEO's Bristol bureau. Progressed to Head of Systems & Programming. Migrated to System 4, finishing working for Baric which he left in 1984.. On leaving LEO worked as a project manager or software manger with several national companies until retirement. Then joined the project to emulate LEO programming on a PC. Provided comprehensive review of LEOSoftware and Utilities. See

<http://sw.ccs.bcs.org/leo/KenK.htm>

**Repository memoir::** <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ri0d9gfi1swo2b38ny26y/Ken-Kemp-memo.doc?dl=0&rlkey=cxln05lvjvr35gfe4kj0wak0r>

**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.

**Restrictions:** None known

**Interviewee: Barry Fox**

**DOB 1935**

**Interviewer: John Daines**

**Date of Interview: 19th July 2017**

**Editors: David Phillips (P1) and Frank Land (P2)**

Joined LEO installation: 1958

Role at LEO: Programmer

Left LEO: 1966 but continued working with EELM and System 4

Abstract: During National Service he worked on an Elliott 402 before joining LEO. He worked on LEO II and LEO III. He designed the CLEO compiler. Then moved to English Electric on System/4. He was ICL representative on the ECMA. He worked on S3 language definition and on the ADA compiler.

Repository recording:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/em06y5exeddvbe5/Barry%20Fox%20part%201%20audio.MP3?dl=0> and <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ufo2k5qnkp498n7/Barry%20Fox%20part%202%20audio.MP3?dl=0>

Repository edited transcript: :

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/cs65xquzbgwa6ls/Barry%20Fox%20edited%20P2.docx?dl=0>

Copyright: Leo Computers Society.

Restrictions: None known

**Interviewee:** Margaret Fox **DOB pre war**  
**Interviewer:** John Daines  
**Date of Interview:** 19th July 2017  
**Editors:** Hilary Caminer (P1) and Frank Land (P2)

**Joined LEO:** not known

**Role on LEO:** Programmer

**Left LEO/customer:** 1962

**Abstract:** After leaving University she joined LEO as a programmer working on payroll. After giving birth she did some home working. Then she moved into teaching followed by clerical work then data input.

**Repository recording:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/wrx2lzhdamznoeo/Margaret%20Fox%20audio.MP3?dl=0>

**Repository edited transcript::**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/rj8k96ppqro7iky/Margaret%20Fox%20edited%20P2.docx?dl=0>

**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.

**Restrictions:** None known

**Interviewee:** Mike Jackson **DOB 1931**  
**Interviewer:** Elisabetta Mori  
**Date of Interview:** 25th July 2018  
**Editors:** Mike Jackson (P1) and Frank Land (P3)

**Joined LEO** 1957

**Role at LEO:** Programmer, lecturer, project manager, senior consultant (sales)

**Left LEO** 1964

**Abstract:** After University joined LEO as trainee programmer on LEO II. Later lectured on a course. Project leader for Eagle Star pension fund on LEO II/1. Project Manager for British Oxygen on LEO II/7. Wrote specification for Perkins Engines service job on LEO II/5. Rose to Senior Consultant (sales) writing proposals for sale of LEO III to many customers. Oversaw installation of LEO III to some of them. Moved to Freemans Mail Order as Computer Manager on LEO 326. Became Administration Manager, helping to transform the company with groundbreaking applications. Moved to Perkins Engines as Group Director Management Services. In 1980 moved to a company providing bespoke applications using micro-computers. Outside interests included dinghy sailing to international standards and designing what became an Olympic class dinghy. Also enjoyed flying and owned his own small aircraft. Married Helen Clark a LEO programming manager.

**Repository recording:** <https://www.dropbox.com/s/javk6jhs53x7cg6/mike-jackson.wav?dl=0>

**Repository edited transcript::**  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/kr0d48hzrnp9sou/Mike%20Jackson%20edited%20P3.docx?dl=0>

**Repository**

**Memoir** <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/jrcs2ywmzmybd19a4y61vq/Mike-Jackson-history-skeleton.docx?dl=0&rlkey=zg1ivqaddzdq75uf4aa6a3doz>

**Copyright:** Leo Computers Society.

**Restrictions:** None known

**Interviewee:** Ian Bruce

**DOB:** 11 November 1947

**Interviewer:** Mike Hally

**Editor:** Tony Morgan and Frank Land

**Role in LEO:** Site engineer

**Joined LEO (EELM):** circa 1967

**Date of Interview:** 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**Abstract:** Left school in Edinburgh aged 15 to be apprenticed to his father's Radio and TV supply and repair shop. After 4 years, expecting to take over the business, his father sold the business leaving Ian to find a job. On seeing an advert by EELM for computer engineers applied, sat the aptitude test and was offered job of trainee Data Prep engineer, Assigned to work at CAV LEO III site in Acton. Subsequently took on computer maintenance with special skills in maintenance of magnetic tape. Worked on a number of sites including Post Office LEO 326 in Edinburgh and later on a range of ICL computers. Became team leader but retired when offered early retirement Fujitsu after 35 years service. Keen on sports and still active as a swimmer.

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions:** None known

**Repository:**

(FL)<https://www.dropbox.com/s/cpf6vvv6qr54806/Ian%20Bruce%20edited%20P2.docx?dl=0>

**Interviewee:** Peter Wharton

**Interviewer:** John Daines

**Date of Interview:** 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016

**Editors:** David Phillips (P1) and Bob Marsh (P2)

**Additional Editing:** Frank Land (FL)

**Joined LEO:** 1962

**Role in LEO:** Programmer

**Abstract:** After West Bromwich Grammar School and graduating with a maths degree from Leicester University. Following the advice of a friend who had become a computer programmer, responded to a LEO job advert, was called for an aptitude test at Hartree House. Offered job as trainee programmer using CLEO, and with his background in maths was assigned to John Caldwell's Mathematical Programming Group at Minerva Road. Worked on production of linear programming package for solving the transport problem principally for Shell. Notes that unlike the programming groups at Hartree House the Minerva Road group had not adopted a setoff programming, testing and implementation procedures. Moved to join programming teams in Hartree House, and in 1964 after merger with EE selected as member of EELM team to work on RCA Spectra 70 and in particular the design of multiprogramming software for what was to become System 4. Married fellow LEO programmer Sheila Milne. On return to UK moved to Kidsgrove. With formation of ICL advanced rapidly at Company level rising to Chief Engineer working under Technical Director. Became involved in collaborating with Universities including appointment as Visiting Professor at Southampton University and research collaborating with Durham University.

Repository recording:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ipvzvvyf5ja24hni/Peter%20Wharton%20Part%201%20audio.MP3?dl=0> and



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/nhje319ya4p36l3/Peter%20Wharton%20Part%202%20audio.MP3?dl=0>

Repository edited transcript:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/7tr90t24yrhk23g/Peter%20Wharton%20edited%20P2.docx?dl=0>

**Copyright:** LEO Computers Society

**Restrictions:** None known

**LEO Interviewee:** Ninian Eadie

**DOB** 15th March 1937

**Interviewer:** Two Interviews, by ArchivesUK, and for LEO Oral History Project by John Ferguson plus a third memoir by Edie himself.

**Date of Interview:** LE) interview 6th July 2017

**Joined** 1960

**Role in LEO:** Joined LEO as a trainee programmer, rose rapidly in a variety of roles including teaching, defining CLEO, sales management in South Africa, managing the important Post Office project and taking senior management roles in EELM and subsequently ICL and Fujitsu.

**Left LEO,** on 1967 merger to take senior roles in ICL

**Abstract:**

Education, prep school, Winchester, Balliol College, Oxford (PPE). After National Service in the Navy joined LEO as trainee programmer. His LEO career included teaching on training courses, joining LEO teams assisting customers like Cerbos, defining LEO III software, acting as sales manager for LEO's joint venture with Rand Mines in South Africa, and culminating in the role of Project Manager for the LEO III and System 4 Post Office project, the largest and most technically and politically project in LEO history. Following the merger which created ICL in 1967, he took on a series of increasingly senior roles for ICL and its successor companies, including managing ICL's international sales organisation, acting as assistant to ICL's chief executive and under Fujitsu became (1993 -1996) Group Executive Director for Technology before retirement. Amongst his outside interests he became an internationally recognised Dinghy racer.

**Repository ArchiveIT:** [Ninian Eadie - Archives of IT \(archivesit.org.uk\)](http://archivesit.org.uk)

**Repository recording by John Ferguson:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/y7f1eatpg65s7hm/Ninian%20Eadie%20audio.wav?dl=](https://www.dropbox.com/s/y7f1eatpg65s7hm/Ninian%20Eadie%20audio.wav?dl=0)

**0 Repository edited transcript John Ferguson OH:** [https://www.dropbox.com/s/359urap6tar82ea/Ninian%20Eadie%20edited%20P2.docx?dl=](https://www.dropbox.com/s/359urap6tar82ea/Ninian%20Eadie%20edited%20P2.docx?dl=0)

[0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/359urap6tar82ea/Ninian%20Eadie%20edited%20P2.docx?dl=0)

**Repository memoir::**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/xnqzyojvpmdzq9wu7uo2i/Ninian-Eadie-Summary.doc?dl=0&rlkey=u4b19u9r245auess9g2ka3koa>

**Copyright:** ArchivesIT and Leo Computers Society.

**Restrictions:** None known

**Georgina Ferry Transcripts:**

Georgina Ferry has donated the unedited transcripts of the people she interviewed for her book A Computer called LEO to the Heritage Project of the LEO Computers Society. The following interviewees are included:

Anthony Salmon, Maurice Wilkes, David Wheeler, Murray Laver, David Caminer, John Pinkerton, Ernest Kaye, Ray Shaw, Derek Hemy, Peter Hermon, John Aris, Mary Coombs, Ralph Land, Frank Land (incomplete first half of transcript lost)