

GERRY TAYLOR

Gerry Taylor was born on 7th April 1958 in Sudbury, Middlesex, the elder son of Edwin (known as Ed) and Diane Taylor. He was baptised in Roehampton.



Foundry work was in the blood. Great Grandfather Frederick Taylor born in Norwich in 1847 was a moulder iron founder. Frederick's son and Gerry's father, Herbert Taylor (photo left



taken WW1), was also a Norfolk boy who was foundry manager at Lawrence and Scott a company that still exists today. He had been born in Norwich in 1893 and married Mary Elizabeth Ellis also from Norwich (photo right) in 1915. Herbert decided to leave both the company and the area moving to West London where he got a job with Glazier Metals, a company that manufactured bearings. As before he was the foundry manager and during the Second World War he was kept on throughout, producing bearings for the military. At the end of the war he decided to start up his own company and in 1946 brought a cottage in Alperton and after installing a furnace the Taylor story began. The company started with just three workers, Herbert, Ted Dobson and one other labourer.



From humble beginnings starting in a cottage they moved into a new factory still in Alpertown. A small unit on an Industrial Estate they did various castings for local firms around. Up until the mid 70s the foundry predominantly cast aluminium, bits of bronze and brasses and other non ferrous castings.

Looking to expand further, Gerry's grandfather, looked at Stevenage, Harlow and Haverhill for possible towns as part of the Greater London overspill expansion programme. Gerry's father, Ed, loved cycling especially the sport of push bike racing. In London he had been a member of the Wembley Road Club, however when Gerry was born he gave up competitive cycling. Ed knew of Haverhill through cycling and encouraged his father to move to Haverhill at a time when the Haverhill Wheelers were in existence. The Haverhill Wheelers disbanded in the early 60s but Gerry's father was to resurrect the club in the early seventies and also establish Team Haverhill in the 80s.

A new factory was built for the foundry in Haverhill and Herbert, Ed and the other workers who also made the move north all settled in houses in Downs Crescent. Gerry was just three years old when the family moved here in 1961 and brother Terry was born shortly afterwards. Mum, Diane, was a nursery nurse and she started the first nursery school in Haverhill.

Like most local children, Gerry attended the Cangle school before moving to Castle Manor. He then went to Braintree College where he completed a pattern making tool course before becoming involved in the family business.

In 1981, with Ed's sights set firmly on developing the market, another foundry was purchased, this time in Stoke on Trent. Operating as Taylormade Castings Ltd the ferrous work at Haverhill was moved to the new company and their aluminium work was brought back to Haverhill, with both foundries being able to supply bronze and brass. Today both foundries are under the guidance of third generation family member, Gerry who took over the management of Taylor's Foundry in April 2000, after the death of his father.

It should not surprise anyone to hear that one of Gerry's favourite commissions was the contract to produce some of the Sustrans Mileposts for the National Cycle Network. (See photo right of one of the many mileposts. This one is to be found near Dover Castle.) To celebrate the National Cycle Network at the



turn of the century, Sustrans commissioned four artists from the four countries of the United Kingdom to design cast iron 'Millennium Mileposts'. 1,000 mileposts were created and installed across all the regions, stretching to all corners, some as far North as the Shetland Islands.

Taylor's Foundry were approached by the Haverhill Chamber of Commerce to produce a cast aluminium award based on their logo. We were presented with a 3D artistic image produced by Pure Energy Multimedia Ltd and asked to produce an award from that.



Other commissions include producing the railings at the tradesman's entrance to Buckingham Palace and some restoration work at Aldgate.



As teenagers, both Gerry and his brother were encouraged to cycle by their father. As a seventeen year old, Gerry was riding for V.C. Olympia Sport based in Colchester. He rode with them for nearly ten years and for some of this time he was semi sponsored by Condor Cycles.

Gerry rode in several Grand Prix of Essex competitions, including the 1979 event when he raced through Finchingfield. (photo top left)



Gerry won Stage 1B on the 1979 Milk Race, a 46 mile town centre race held in Basingstoke in May when the event was for purely for amateurs – not the professional Tour of Britain it is today.

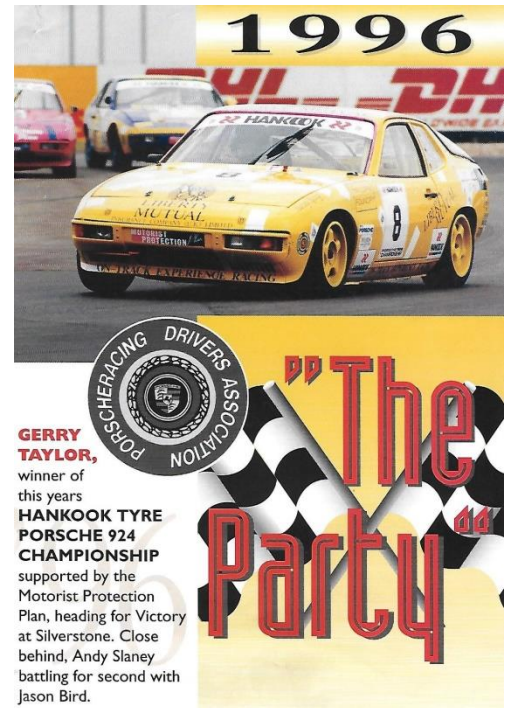


He has represented Great Britain and also competed in the 1980 and 1982 Milk Races, in the latter coming third in a mid-sprint race in Haverhill during the Norwich to Welwyn Garden City stage.

In 1984 his father Ed started Team Haverhill and Gerry rode with them until he hung up his cycle clips in 1987.

During his cycling career Gerry raced against Max Pendleton, father of Victoria Pendleton, and also Bradley Wiggin's father which makes him feel a little old.

Missing the excitement of competitive cycling Gerry tried his hand at go-carting. In October 1993 he went to Snetterton to watch the Porsche 924 racing. He was smitten and in April the following year he bought his own yellow 924. Taylor's Foundry Motor Sport was born and in 1996 Gerry won the Porsche 924 Championship.



In 1988 Gerry joined the Round Table becoming their Chairman in 1994. (photo left)

Although the Haverhill Round Table is no longer meeting, Gerry still enjoys joining his 'old tablers' to do the rounds with the Christmas Sleigh, raising money for local charities.

Haverhill Wheelers

The Haverhill Wheelers were founded on 8 October 1935, at a meeting in the Toc H Hut. Membership was five shillings (25p). It later disbanded on 9 January 1940, for the duration of Word War II when three members – John Knopp, Bill Jacobs, and Charlie Dawson – were killed in the fighting. The Wheelers reformed on 25 March 1946, and continued until its collapse, albeit with a drop in membership in the early 1970s. When Ed Taylor and son Gerry joined the Haverhill Wheelers in 1972 they brought knowledge and experience that helped to revive the Wheelers. Haverhill Wheelers finally disbanded in 2013.