

David Pantlin was born in 1951 in the East End of London

He has run varied businesses from Pubs and restaurants to Petrol Stations and Car Hire but primarily was born into the Commercial Laundry Industry where he has worked since deciding after a day working at International Computers at the age of 17 that Computers were not going to catch on....

Bates of London as you may have realised from our logo goes back a long way. The original business was started when Martha Bates (nee Warrington), David's great grandmother started taking in washing when her husband could find no work at the docks in London's East End.

As the business grew, they moved from Hague Street, not far from our current factory to progressively larger houses.

During both wars the business marked time as family members joined the forces and in the late 1950's, now owned by two families both related to Martha they finally moved to a factory in Tottenham, North London.

In 1973 David joined the business having served a seven-year apprenticeship with a National Laundry Company. By the late 1970's the South House & Elmhurst Laundry as it was then known, had outgrown the small factory and in 1982 when David's father and uncle retired he purchased the trading business and merged it with Purity Sweet Clean Laundry in Enfield Middlesex, another old family laundry.

Once again, due to the focus and personal service that the new business provided trading then as Royal Jersey, Enfield, our growth continued and in 1999 Matthew Pantlin, David's son, joined the Company and we moved again to Argall Avenue, back where we started in London's East End.

As we moved from Contract Laundering into Textile Rental, we re-branded in 2007 as Bates of London, in honour of the lady who started it all. Now in 2017 we are proud to be the largest fully family owned Laundry in the UK, employing over 250 staff and processing over 50 million pieces a year for over 10,000 Hotel Rooms in London and beyond.