



Famous Hairdresser Leonard styling  
Twiggy's Hair in the sixties

## Tales To Make Your Hair Curl

Picture the scene. Olivia Newton-John's hair is being washed and Bianca Jagger is having a tint put in. Meanwhile, the stylist is putting the final touches to Twiggy's hair and Mick Jagger is waiting downstairs. That was just another day at Leonard's Hair Salon in London's Grosvenor Square, where Swindon hairdresser Frank Rutland learned his trade. Frank, 50, of Stratton, now has a salon in Marlborough but will never forget his days as a stylist to some of Hollywood's brightest stars. He moved to London in 1970 at the age of 20 to become a hairdresser, despite his father's assertion that it was "not for men". His first job was at Annie Russell's salon on the fashionable Kings Road. After six months, he moved to Michael John in Albemarle Street before taking a job as a junior stylist at Leonard's, which at the time was the most prestigious salon in the country. Frank spent seven years at Leonard's, becoming a fully qualified stylist. Based behind the American embassy and opposite Vidal Sassoon's salon, Leonard's was at the centre of swinging London in the 1960s and 1970s. The owner, Leonard Lewis, is the stylist credited with creating Twiggy's bob and the Beatles' mop tops. Frank admits that the stream of stars coming through the salon's door never ceased to amaze him. "I remember Bianca Jagger's hair was being done and Mick was waiting downstairs for her," he said. "It was when I was a junior, and they sent me to bring him up. "He was stood there wearing a trilby, a big scarf, maroon cords with cowboy boots and a tweed jacket, reading Melody Maker. "I took him upstairs and he exploded into shouting at Bianca asking her where she'd been. "I shampooed his hair once. He was a lovely chap when he was feeling all right." Frank even tended to the hair of a Royal. "I was working with Princess Anne once and I was supposed to address her as 'Your Highness'," he said. "I completely forgot about that though, and just chatted away telling her jokes." She was charming and cracked a few jokes herself, telling me all about when she competed in the Olympics. "I was so naive back then, with all these celebrities hanging around." Singer Lynsey de Paul was great, she was a good friend. "Another great client was Tony Curtis, such a genuine, down-to-earth bloke. He was the nicest to work with; he'd ask me how my family in Swindon were and even told me to look him up if I was in California. "I also worked with his daughter Jamie Lee Curtis when she was a child." Celebrities are renowned for their bad behaviour and the steady stream of superstars passing through Leonard's doors proved no exception. Bianca Jagger was well known for her temper, and Frank remembers one occasion when she got the better of Leonard who stormed out, leaving him to finish her hair. "It's the same with any client," he explains. "If you like each other you tend to do a better job. Bianca was tolerable, but she expected things to be done on a click of the fingers. "We once had to hire a Bentley for her because she refused to get a taxi to the salon. "I didn't like Olivia Newton-John she only tipped me 20p. "And I once washed Liz Taylor's hair. She looked down her nose at me, but then I was only a junior so a lot of them looked down at me a bit." The rich and famous clients arrived at the salon in a string of flashy cars, including Bentleys, Ferraris and Porsches. The juniors were often told to park cars, and Frank says it wasn't uncommon to take them for a spin before coming back half an hour later and claiming there were no parking spaces. He once met boss Leonard, who owned a house in Cricklade, at Swindon railway station and was offered a lift home. Leonard was driving a convertible gold Rolls Royce and sat Frank in the front. "This was 1974, a car like this was unheard of in Swindon," he said. "He drove me along Fleming Way and up Victoria Road. I was dying for people I knew to see me in the car." Across the road from Leonard's was

Vidal Sassoon's salon, and Frank speaks fondly of the hairstyling legend. He once told Frank that one day he would own his own salon. They met up at a reunion 26 years later. "I went up to Vidal and reminded him that he admired my hairdressing and, although it had taken me 26 years, I had my own salon. He hugged me! He is a lovely guy. He's very genuine and a brilliant hairdresser. "Nicky Clarke started out just after me as well. He was actually my junior so he had to wash my clients' hair." Frank's colleagues at Leonard's included John Frieda, who along with Clarke has his own brand of hair care products. Leonard's salon had a big reputation, and it was through that that Frank found himself styling for films such as Murder on the Orient Express and A Clockwork Orange. Frank recalls one incident while working with Albert Finney, who was playing Poirot in Murder on the Orient Express. He said: "Albert had very curly hair and we needed it to be straight." Leonard put together a mixture of wax and semi-permanent dye called a pomade. "We needed to remove it because he was performing in the theatre that night, so I was handed a 'special potion'." I open it and the smell knocked my head back it was Swarfega. "Albert didn't care what we put on his head so long as it removed the original mixture." Frank worked at the salon for seven years before eventually returning to Swindon in 1980. He now has his own salon in Kingsbury Street in Marlborough.

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