

M.A. & H.V. MEDLER (HAULAGE)LTD.
 AGRICULTURAL & GENERAL HAULAGE CONTRACTORS



Celebrating Over 50 Years Of Agricultural & General Haulage
 Proud To Be Associated With East Coast Truckers Charity.

Oak Tree Farm,
 Marsham,
 Norwich,
 NR10 5PJ.

E-Mail:
traffic@medlerhaulage.co.uk

Telephone:
 01263 732380
 Fax:
 01263 732303

November 2011 Registered Charity No. 1082023

If sold £1

EAST COAST TRUCKERS

CHARITY



NEWS

DELIVERING LOADS OF FUN TO SPECIAL CHILDREN

Fun For All On Convoy



Henham Delight



What a Splash



DRIVING YOUR CHARITY HOME
www.eastcoasttruckers.org



East Coast Truckers' Charity
 Freepost, P.O. Box 56
 Attleborough
 Norfolk NR17 2WT

Driving your Charity Home

CDC - PROUD TO SPONSOR ETC

YOUR ONE STOP SHOP for ALL TRUCK ACCESSORIES



CDC ORWELL CROSSING



CDC Orwell Crossing
A14 Ipswich, Suffolk
Contact: Peter Barker
Mobile: 07920 499597
Opening Hours:
Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5.30pm
or by appointment

ECTC MUDFLAPS AVAILABLE!
EAST TRUCK COAST KERS



SAT NAV: IP10 0DD

10% DISCOUNT AT ORWELL ON SHOW OF ETC

Freephone **0800 9800680**
online www.truckstuff.co.uk



YOUR NO.1 SOURCE FOR TRUCK ACCESSORIES

Photo Gallery



BECOME A FRIEND

If you, or someone you know, would like to get involved and become a friend of the East Coast Truckers' Charity Then here is what to do.

Send us the minimum of £10.00 (less than 20 p per week), and you will become a Friend for a year. In return we will send you a Friends welcome pack

The charity has no employees, the expenses are kept to a minimum, so nearly all your donation goes to benefit the children of East Anglia, including a Christmas party, a trip to the Circus, Pantomime, Easter Outing, trip to SantaPod, the Children's Convoy, and a trip to the "Zoo". We also respond to special requests for equipment for individuals or groups and we can now offer **Free** holidays in our mobile home at California Cliffs.

So join now, send your donation to:

EAST COAST TRUCKERS' CHARITY

FREEPOST P.O.BOX 56, ATTLEBOROUGH, NORFOLK, NR17 2WT.

THANK YOU.

To Get Involved Become a Member.

To do this apply for an application form from our Member's Secretary at the free post address above.

CHILD NOMINATION

The Charity's aim is to give disabled, underprivileged or fostered children memorable days out and their parents a well-deserved day off.

The charity is planning its events through the year. The main one being the Children's Convoy, run on August Bank Holiday Sunday. To maintain the charity's success I am looking for parents, guardians, organisations or friends to nominate children aged between 5 & 16 who would benefit from amazing free days out with the truckers and their families.

If any reader would like to nominate a child, please fill in the cut out section below and send it back to me or email me direct at the following address;

Thank you. Mrs. Susan Alabaster Children's Liaison Officer

E-mail susanalabaster@aol.com

Mail hard copy to our Freepost Address.

NAME:
ADDRESS :
.....
.....
POST CODE : PHONE NO :

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION :

AGE. GENDER. DISABILITY

.....



NEWS

Charity Tele. No.
07511 531355

Editors

Ivan Hardy & Mike Read
01953 860726
01953 860920

Advertising

Sheila Jones
01493 700056
jonesyn1967@yahoo.co.uk

Correspondent

Mike Read
michaelread270@btinternet.com
mikeread@eastcoasttruckers.org

Webmaster

Paul Girling & Ivan Hardy
paul@greystokegraphics.co.uk
webmaster@eastcoasttruckers.org

Photographs

(unless stated otherwise)
Ivan's Photographic
ivan@ivansphotographic.com

Merchandise

Alan Hardesty
01603 482213

Editorial contributions are welcomed, together with any new advertisers.

Please contact: Mike Read
michaelread270@btinternet.com
mikeread@eastcoasttruckers.org

Chaplain

Rev. Geoff Brendling
01603 865909

www.eastcoasttruckers.org

This edition of the "ECTC Tymes" started life as the folder "August Newsletter" in my computer and here we are at the beginning of November. Contributions from our readers have been very thin on the ground and we have had problems getting enough material to go to print with.

Convoy Day was a great success and we were blessed with much better weather than we had for the 25th Convoy in 2010. The Holiday Home season has come to an end and in excess of 40 families have enjoyed a great week's holiday free of charge. Thanks are due to the great majority who opted to let us keep their security deposit of £50. This money helps to finance next year's holidays. We had just one critical letter from one of our guests and I think that when I read it out to those members who were there at a Club meeting, your reaction told both the trustees and me what you thought of this particular person and her completely unreasonable comments. Talk about ungrateful! Some years ago my late wife Pat and I spent 4 years in charge of a holiday complex in Lanzarote and I think I can say that I have seen most of the things that people on holiday do. In comparison, our guests have been exemplary in the way they have looked after our property. One or two silly things have happened. For example, who needed to steal the tools attachments for one of the vacuum cleaners, but not the actual cleaner? Your guess is as good as mine. But, as I say, in the main everything has been kept in good order. Mandy our cleaner has been very thorough and all guests arriving have found their caravan clean and tidy. For the 2012 season "Hodi-Ho" will be fitted with new carpets and curtains. We felt we could get this year out of the old ones but a refurb in this department is scheduled before next summer.

I am already receiving requests for application forms for next year. The invitations to book will be sent out in the first week of the New Year by post and ONLY postal replies in the strict order they are received will be considered. Obviously, those families that we couldn't accommodate in 2011 must apply again but will get "first call" until the end of January then we will fill up the weeks on a first-come-first-served basis. Holidays are in demand, no surprise there, but in order to be fair to all, everything will be dealt with only by post. So please don't email or 'phone either Susan Alabaster or me. It will not help.

Getting back to the magazine. I'm not a great fan of Dolly Parton but I do give her credit for being a very intelligent lyrics writer and there's usually a valuable message in the words she writes. Her latest record "Sacrifice" which is getting a lot of airtime at the moment has the following in the words. "You don't drink the water if you don't dig the well". Put another way, what you get out depends on what you put in.

This certainly applies to ECTC Tymes. If Ivan and I don't get your input we can't produce a magazine. If we don't produce enough magazines in the year we can't sell advertising space to sponsors and we could lose other benefits that the magazine generates. We also lose a valuable promotional aid that keeps its wide readership up to date with what we are doing. It's your charity and your magazine. Let's have a few more people "Digging that Proverbial Well".
Mike.

PAUL ARTHURTON TRANSPORT

Telephone: 01953 457788 Mobile: 07761 356710

Fax: 01953 452543

E-Mail: arthurtontrans@btconnect.com



Stubble Farm, Silver Street,
Besthorpe, Attleborough,
Norfolk, NR17 2LQ.

Presentations

We have a team that gives a presentation consisting of a talk and film show lasting 45 to 60 minutes. If you wish to book a presentation for your group please contact Jackie Noy.

E-mail: jackie.noy@btinternet.com
01603 812498. Mob 0790 1898849

**50% off
storage for up
to 8 weeks***



Big Yellow Norwich
Canary Way, Riverside,
Norwich, Norfolk NR1 1WY
01603 666430

*Terms and conditions apply. Please ask in store for details.



Get some space in your life.

“Marshal” Law

This month's Member Profile – Darin Culling

page
17

Darin Culling is a man that we don't hear too much from, although he very rarely misses a Club meeting. He has been a member of the Truckers for 18 years and has worked as an HGV driver for Twinkle Transport, Vulcan Road South, Norwich for over 21 years.

When we do hear from Darin is at Convoy time because he is the main man at the Gt. Yarmouth end of the operation on Convoy Day. As 80 trucks trundle down Yarmouth seafront it's Darin's job to make sure his team keeps bystanders out of harm's way. It's so tempting for eager "Happy Snappers", not to mention total idiots, to try to get onto the actual road in order to get a better view. Thanks to Darin there has never been any incident involving pedestrians and our Convoy. And, as far as he is concerned, there never will be. Darin normally sits near me at meetings and, although a man of few words, I cannot fail to detect a certain tension in the weeks up to the Great Day. He can never have too many volunteers to act as stewards on the day and recruitment can often be a last-minute nail-biter. But, he gets there in the end and does a fantastic job. More events than the Convoy demand some of Darin's time and our photo was taken at the Connaught Hall, Attleborough at last winter's pantomime when, as ever, Darin was their with his team to make sure that big wheels and people stay well apart. Well done, Darin!

Postscript. Darin wants us to include the following:

"May I take this opportunity to say thank you to the following people who took part in the road closure and pedestrian marshalling on Convoy Day.

Victoria and her daughter, Matthew Croucher for their help with booking in the volunteers.

Karen Palmer and all the colleagues from Sainsbury's; Bernice and Dawn and the customers from The Catherine Wheel pub.

And last, but by no means least all the members and friends who volunteered to come along and help.

Thank you all and I hope to see you all again next year.



Harleston Dinner Dance

By Rob Billman

October 15th saw the first Dinner Dance fundraiser in aid of East Coast Truckers at the Swan Hotel Harleston. Well I say the first, and although modest attendance figures were seen on the



night, I can see it happening again.

A pleasant evening spent in the company of many that admire and support the work that we do. The event was organised by Emma Rix, assisted by Paul Tunmore and her mum Janice Tunmore. The Disco was supplied free of charge by Mark Bull. Robin Twigg provided the venue and meal. (Robin supplies the bar for the convoy evening, usually staffed by Paul, Emma and Janice).

Despite the aforementioned modest turnout, a massive £385 was raised on the night. Quite an impressive result. Well done Emma!

Hammond Commercial Centre

For all your HGV & PSV needs...



- HGV & PSV Servicing & Repairs
- Full HGV Diagnostics
- 6 Weekly Inspections
- Mobile Inspections, Repairs & Breakdowns
- Bus, Coach, Rigid, Artic & Horsebox
- MOT's & Repairs
- All makes, Models & Sizes
- Competitive rates

Tel : 01986 834090 or visit www.hammondgroup.co.uk/commercial

HAMMOND RECOVERY

For all your recovery needs...



- Dedicated Fleet of Vehicles
- Spec Lifts
- Transporters
- Low-loader
- Plant/Farm Equip Specialists
- Heavy Recovery
- All HGV & PSV
- Roadside Recovery & Accident
- 24hrs a day, 7 days a week



Also Available For Return Loads

Tel 01986 834099

or email recovery@hammondgroup.co.uk

www.hammondgroup.co.uk/recovery

HAMMOND ROADCARE

COMMERCIAL SEMI-TRAILER SERVICE AND REPAIRS

Roadcare has been established since 2001 as a Commercial Semi-trailer Mobile Service and Maintenance Operation. With a two bay Workshop in Dereham and Mobile Units covering Norfolk, Suffolk and areas of Lincolnshire, Cambridge and Essex. We offer a number of services from Roadside breakdown to servicing and MOT's



- With MOT Arrangement, Traction and Submission
- Specialist Fabrication & Aluminium Welding Work Carried Out
- ABS & EBS Brake System Diagnosis
- Genuine Parts Supplied & Fitted With Full Manufacturers Warranty



Tel : 01362 693033 or Fax: 01362 693064
email roadcare@hammondgroup.co.uk

Cruiser's Corner

page
5

Continuing Cruiser's story from the last issue.

In Sydney tipping (Well they are, I'm not) 290 very dead Miss Piggy and her mates. Worse than that the sandwich van is late! Winter arrived here on June 1st with a vengeance. Got to minus 3 last night, I know it's not that cold like UK cold but it's classified as an ice age here. 3 hour drive north of Melbourne is a ski resort where snow chains and diesel additive is compulsory. Weird place this, can be 30c in Melbourne and 3 hours away minus 15 and snowing! There's a saying here that if you don't like the weather, just wait for 5 minutes and there'll be another along soon. The locals still think I'm mad as I'm still in shorts and T Shirt when working. Told them that if they ever see me wearing trousers for work then it's time to put on 2 layers of thermal gear.

Truck is now 15 months old, done just over 258000 kms. and last week had new tyres put on. 258000 km's on original Bridgestones can't be sniffed at.

The Kenworth and Freightliners we have can't get anywhere near that or the Volvo doing 2.3 km's per litre with 1 trailer and 1.9-2.0 litres with 2 trailers.

Boss is happy. Putting round a rumour that I have a new Volvo 700 coming next month so that's pissed a lot of drivers off. How I love winding these gullible colonials up!

Still no sandwich van... Managed to buy on eBay a 24 volt to 240 volt inverter for the truck last month for \$90 (about 50 GBP), 1500 watts with 3000 watt max.

Got that fitted so bought a microwave, sandwich toaster, coffee maker and very nearly just to wind the drivers up a lava lamp for the dashboard!!

Now, where can I buy lace curtains?

Thinking of getting a pop-up toaster just to get 'em going too. Also on eBay got 2 LED strip lights for \$20 (about 10 GBP, no pound sign on keyboard), so now have 120 LED lights on front of cab. More to come but in red and orange next. Hope the alternator and batteries hold up.

No doubt some of you are on Face Book, if so I'm usually on there daily giving advice or taking the p-- out of people or them doing the same to me. So you can find me on there.

Just type in Peter Wright and you'll see my drop dead gorgeous mug looking at yer. Been keeping up to date on what's going on within the ECTC and not happy to see and hear about the convoy possibly being the last one this year. Fingers crossed here that the Police/Council have a change of heart and continue doing their brilliant job and keeping the convoy going. Not involved with the truckers club here now and not been for 3 years.

No social events put on just a convoy, which after the first one I attended put me off. Convoy included trucks, pick-ups, cars, even a fire engine!

Not what I called organised either. Try parking B-Double trucks with trailers up with fire engines and vans etc in a space the size of County Hall.

50 vehicles in all. Give Gerry and his merry band a headache that would.

All tipped at the abattoir, washed out and drove 1 km back to yard so must be C.C. time. That's Canteen Cruiser time as no sandwich van turned up and I couldn't be bothered to make my own. 10.25am here and taking into account it's winter time, the sun is shining and temp is 21oC That's about a heat wave in UK.

Don't be a Twitter Twit

Social networking is a great way to exchange ideas and information. But if you have something to report about the Truckers that you're planning to put on Twitter or Face Book, don't forget the ECTC website and the ECTC Tymes. The Tymes targets our Members and Friends in print and the website is world-wide.

So, if you have a story please let Ivan or Mike have it and let's give it maximum coverage.

NOVEMBER

23rd November Exhibition Trailer at Holt for Christmas Lights.

26th November Dinner Dance at the Holiday Inn Norwich

27th November Exhibition Trailer at Dereham for Christmas Lights.

DECEMBER

3rd December Exhibition Trailer and Trucks at Forum for the Book Launch 9am-5pm .

4th December Monthly meeting at Gas Club.

10th December Children's Christmas Party At Hellesdon High School 1pm-5pm

Social Club Christmas Party for members & partners at Gas Club 7pm until late.

JANUARY

7th January Children's outing to Circus at Gt. Yarmouth.

7th January Trustees BBQ & Quiz Night at Gas Club.

8th January Monthly Meeting at Gas Club.

21st January Children's outing to Attleborough Players Pantomine at Connaught Hall.
(Sing asong of sixpence)

FEBRUARY

5th February Monthly Meeting at Gas Club.

200 Club

The East Coast Truckers Charity is setting up a 200 club. Anyone interested, its either £2 per month or £24 cheque for the year. Depending on how many people we get to join the higher the monthly draw winnings will be. Half of the money taken each month will be paid out in winnings, so the more we get to join the more you could win. Ask all your friends and family to join, it's for a great cause. Contact Allison or Alan Hardesty on 01603 482213 Mob: 07780 614105 or Email:ahardesty23@aol.com and they will help you with the forms to join.

Ivan's Photographic.

We operate on a commercial basis that offers this Charity its services free of charge.

This magazine is fully compiled by Ivan's Photographic completely free of charge. All the photos taken by me or any assistant on assignment for us at different events are taken on a freelance basis (meaning no charges to the Charity).

Any photos sold are at a discounted price to the members and a percentage of the sale goes to the Charity. Any profit Ivan's Photographic makes from the sale of these photographs is used to fund this service.

Thanks to all the contributors that make this Magazine a success.

By Susan Alabaster

I was lucky enough to be able to go to the Band Night in Attleborough, on Friday 19th August. There were four bands playing that night, Punked Ya Trunks, Shock! Hazard, Unchained Syns and Impulse, which were the organizers of that night and they had made us their chosen Charity for the evening in the form of a collection. The bands were very good, all youngsters ranging from their late teens, some still at school, into their very early twenties. I was made to feel very welcome and they were very interested in the Charity and what we do. But what I liked most was the fact that youngsters had thought of us and it was their idea to do the collection for us and it was they that donated. They don't have much money, but their thoughtfulness was truly great. Many thanks to them.

A Wonderful Day

by Susan Alabaster

What a wonderful day we had on Sunday 28th August! I am, of course, talking about this year's Children's Convoy. Convoy Day for most of us starts on the Saturday when the drivers and their trucks begin to arrive at County Hall, and we end that day by going for the pre-Convoy Chinese meal. Then it is a very early start for all. The team arrives ready to do their jobs for the morning and gazebos are put up. More drivers arrive in their well polished trucks, along with their families, then they have to book in and wait for their Special Guest to arrive. The children started arriving just after 8 o'clock, all very excited and just wanting to get to the truck they are going to be travelling in. This year the children received a t-shirt and a lovely red hoodie, and they all eagerly changed into them. I must admit, I was relieved when all the children had booked in. It was my first Convoy as the Child Liaison Officer, but I had wonderful support from the rest of the Convoy Team and Sheila Sarsby and Barbara Land were a great help to me, also helping me the day before. Thank you both for that, and thank you to Lizzie Alabaster for helping with the booking in on the day. There was also brilliant support from Mel Staff and her team, who escorted the children and their parents/carers to the trucks once they had been checked. Once 10 o'clock arrived we were on our way, led by Rob Billman, Convoy Director and Chairman of E.C.T.C, in his gleaming truck. It was my fifth Convoy, but the journey to Pleasurewood Hills never ceases to amaze me with the amount of well-wishers there are on route. When we arrive it's time for the rides! The enjoyment I saw on the faces of the children and of those with them told how they were feeling. It's like a big family day out. There was a tea for the children and filled rolls and cakes for the adults later in the afternoon, thanks to Betty and her team who had worked very hard on preparing all of this. We did have a little bit of rain towards the end of the afternoon, but nothing to dampen anyone's spirits. Then it was back to the trucks for the parade along Great Yarmouth Seafront. Horns were blaring, lights on the trucks were blazing as we arrived and there was a sea of people to greet us. It is quite something to experience; the children in the cabs love hooting and tooting the horns and waving to all the people. And it is lovely to see those who had spent the day at the Seafront with the trailer working hard at fundraising and selling merchandise; such a good team. Then the journey back to County Hall, my arms were aching from waving. I kept changing arms to give the other one a rest. George, our Special Guest, had great fun with the horns in our cab, especially as we went under the bridges. Once back, all the children received a wonderful goody bag, not an easy job to put them together but Jackie and her team do it very well, and goodbyes were said. Since Convoy Day, I have received many cards written by the children, e-mails and texts from their families thanking all of us for the wonderful day we had given them. Can I just say a big thank you to all the drivers. What lovely ladies and gents you are. I said at the beginning that Convoy Day starts for most on the Saturday, but for Rob and his team Convoy Day started months ago. A lot of planning and preparation goes into making this day happen. And happen it did.

KERRISON TOYS

Fantastic Range of Toys, Games & Gifts for all the family.

353 Aylsham Rd
Norwich
Norfolk
NR3 2RX

21 King St
St Yarmouth
Norfolk
NR3 2RX

01603 494008

01493 853891

CORGI Corgi Collectables & Models
All at Discounted Prices



**Everett Brothers Wish
The East Coast Truckers
Every Success**

Direct from the factory price
to your door back-up

We bring you the best **CULTIVATION MACHINES** at the right price and supported by our own service team.

- Heavy duty twin rotor machines available in either single or triple format
- Standard fitted includes slip clutch protection for the draw line and foot depth control
- Dig settings available with current out of season discount price



EVERETT BROS
ENGINEERING
+44 (0)1842 829028
Email: enquiries@everettbros.co.uk

www.everettbros.co.uk

DIGITAL TACHOGRAPH REVOLUTION

**ARE YOU
CONFUSED
?**

**FULL TRAINING FOR DRIVERS.
PRESENTATIONS FOR OPERATORS, MANAGERS
AND DRIVERS. CPC TRAINING.
SIEMENS AND STONERIDGE SIMULATORS.**

**Boyton Services Ltd, Boyton Lodge,
Combs Lane, Stowmarket, Suffolk. IP14 3BL**

CITY AND GUILDS APPROVED

Tel: Simon
07818 417894

ALSO AVAILABLE
DGSA CONSULTANCY
ADR DRIVER TRAINING



December 3rd sees the ECTC at the forum in Norwich for the official book launch of "Keep It Tight"

KEEP IT TIGHT
HISTORY OF THE MAKING OF THE
EAST COAST TRUCKERS CHILDRENS CONVOY
Glenn D. Johnson



Edited by Sheila Hutchinson

This is one man's account of how the world famous Children's Convoy was born, the trials and tribulations in its 26 year history. With additions from present day members, this book is a must for all ECTC Convoy enthusiasts. The author Glenn Johnson will be there on the day if you wish to meet him and have your copy signed. We hope to see you there, Rob.

The book is an A5 size laminated paperback book with 156 pages and about 50 pictures. Price £9.00

Wheelchair available for a donation

Our picture shows a Sterling Ruby Powerchair. It was donated to the charity and has been completely reconditioned with



tyres, upholstery and a new upgraded battery pack by our friends at South Norfolk Mobility Centre at a cost of £465. It comes with a 12 month warranty and is almost indistinguishable from new. It is suitable for an adult for indoor and short outdoor use in say a garden.

This model is part of arguably the most popular range of chairs of this type in the UK. New prices range from £1800 to £2200 and we are looking for a donation of £1000 to secure this chair.

If you know someone who might like to buy this chair please contact Mike Read on 01953 860920 or email michaelread270@btinternet.com Mike will deliver F.O.C to anyone within a 40 mile radius of Norwich.

Happy Birthday

Kelsey Hardesty celebrating her 18th in true lady like fashion.



David Land hit the big 60 and celebrated by cutting up his lorry.



The Editors wish both of them a happy birthday.

**NEED YOUR TANK EMPTYING?
HARVEYSON HAULAGE**

Tankering Services For Waste Disposal | Prompt Service - Competitive Rates

- Septic Tanks
- Farm Slurry
- Factory Effluents
- Interceptors
- Hazardous

Denham Norwich
Walterton Wymering
Kettleburgh Dixe Surgery
Flixton - 2pc




EMERGENCY CALL OUTS 01953 717 969

Roaldham Road, East Hanning NR16 2DN

East Coast Truckers were invited to have a small stand at Holden's Motors Mobility Centre in Norwich on Saturday 8th October when they had a Mobility Open Day. Our picture shows Heather, Jackie and Ivan. We had a chance to meet with other organisations that provide services for disabled people including East Anglian Driveability who start driving courses for disabled youngster from 16 years of age. Great interest was shown in our videos of convoys, holiday homes and wheelchair presentations and it was gratifying to hear about the public support we have for the continuation of the Convoy!



Ivan's Photographic
Wedding Photography




IVANS PHOTOGRAPHIC
1 BARBERS YARD, OLD BUCKENHAM,
ATTLEBOROUGH, NORFOLK, NR17 1RW
Tel: 01953 860726 Mob: 07766 284260
E-Mail: ivan@ivansphotographic.com
www.ivansphotographic.com

SEED BROTHERS
East Anglia

AUTO SMART
INTERNATIONAL

THE UK'S LARGEST SUPPLIER OF
CLEANING PRODUCTS TO THE
TRANSPORT INDUSTRY



**CLEANING 1 IN 3
TRUCKS ON THE ROAD**

For further information and supplies, contact:
Tel: 01603 485 807
Email: sales@seedbrothers.co.uk
www.autosmart.co.uk

Mr. Vain Take Girls To Prom.

On Friday the 1st of July, it was my prom. I decided I wanted to arrive in something that no one had arrived in before, so I asked Rob Billman at Norfolk Gala day last year 2010 if he could take me in Mr. Vain! I kept it a secret from all of my friends and most of my family of what I was going to prom in so it would be a surprise for everyone on the night. Anyway when prom day came and I was having photos taken when round the corner came a very clean and sparkly Mr. Vain! My first thought was oh my, How am I going to get in with my dress! It wasn't too much of a problem though! We then had some photos taken with Rob and Mr. Vain and I said to Rob he could of brushed his hair! When we arrived at Sprowston Manor everyone was saying wow what an exciting way to arrive at the prom! After the prom had finished, I climbed back in Mr. Vain this time with another friend. We thought the music had stopped and we were going to have a quiet ride home, we were wrong! Rob started playing some old school songs! Anyway I would just like to say a very big thank you to Rob and Mr. Vain for taking me to my prom. It was an awesome way to get to prom in and I'm never going to forget my year 11 prom!



Henham Steam Rally

Heather and I drove in the main gate for the exhibitors and wow! did we have a surprise. The first thing you saw was a well organised park for campers and caravans, we were directed to the parking area for us as exhibitors to be met by a man on a Honda fifty who parked us up on our pitch. We were soon followed by Gordon with his caravan, The trailer was already in position and the next morning we got to work with the team setting everything out. We did get to have a good look around and what a fantastic show of Steam Engines, Old Tractors, Motorbikes, Cars, Lorries and even a Sherman Tank. The main ring was kept busy with displays, in my opinion the highlight was the Lings Motorcycle display. The weather was good for the weekend except for a downpour on Saturday late afternoon. This being the first time of attending we certainly did our best to get the word out to the general public on what the East Coast Truckers Charity does for Special Children. Ivan

Customised Mugs
Mouse Mats & Fridge Magnets



01603 898538

The Mug Man, Horsford, Norwich
www.themugman.co.uk

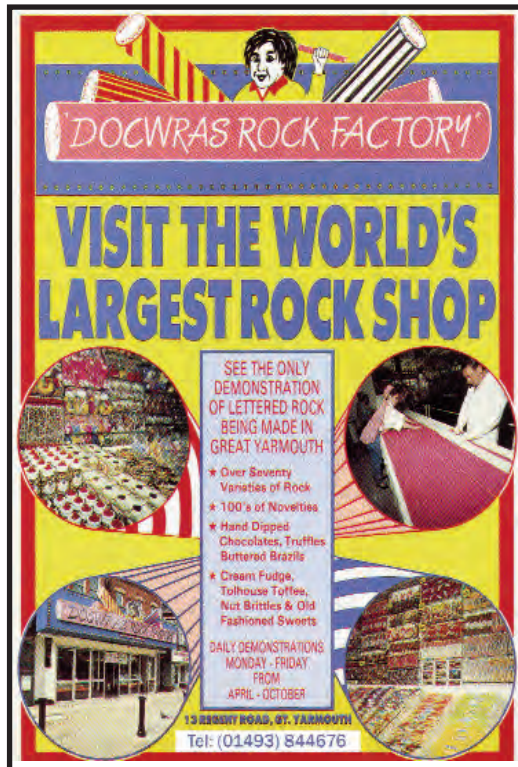
The Flower Box
Attleborough

1 Defiant Precinct, Church Street,
Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 2QE

Tel: 01953 453533 Fax: 01953 453606
Email: shop@theflowerbox-attleborough.co.uk
www.theflowerbox-attleborough.co.uk



By Mike Read



DOCWRAS ROCK FACTORY

VISIT THE WORLD'S LARGEST ROCK SHOP

SEE THE ONLY DEMONSTRATION OF LETTERED ROCK BEING MADE IN GREAT YARMOUTH

- Over Seventy Varieties of Rock
- 100's of Novelties
- Hand Dipped Chocolates, Truffles Buttered Brazils
- Cream Fudge, Toffee, Toffee Toffees, Nut Britties & Old Fashioned Sweets

DAILY DEMONSTRATIONS MONDAY - FRIDAY FROM APRIL - OCTOBER

13 BERRY ROAD, ST. YARMOUTH
Tel: (01493) 844676



FSB
MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESS

WRIGHTWEAR SAFETY
INDUSTRIAL WORKWEAR

SHOP HERE
Specialists in
and more

Inickers
WORKWEAR

Dickies
WORKWEAR

Polos, Jackets, Sweatshirts,
Workwear, Headwear, Footwear
Logo Service Available

Unit 2 Paddock Street
City Trading Estate
Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 4TW
Tel: 01603 626029 Fax: 01603 219766
Website: www.wrightwearsafety.co.uk
E-mail: wrightwear@btconnect.com
Discount To Members



**Wants to Buy your Bike
Any Model!**

BIKEMAN

kristian@bikeman.nu simon@bikeman.nu
Phone Simon 07900 817 568



Smiths Coaches

26-57 Seaters Available
Local/Long Distance
Excursions/ Weddings
Private & Business Hire
UK & Continental
School Sports/Outings
etc

Your Local Coach
Hire Company
With 50 Years
Experience

Competitive Rates

Wolford House, The Heath, Blofield, Norfolk, NR13 4DQ
Tel: 01603 720628 Fax: 01603 722134
E-mail: smithscoaches@email.com
www.smithscoaches.com

Private Hire

Contact us for
a free quote.

We know that prehistoric man used to go out and hunt animals to provide himself with food, and skins for clothing and shelter. How do we know this? Because he painted pictures on the walls of his caves. Long before the written word came about, he told us what his life was like.

Everyone's heard of William Shakespeare; England's greatest playwright. And he did describe many of his characters as to their appearance. But we really know what the first Elizabethans looked like from the paintings of their time.

The modern historical "painting", if you like, is photography and the most potent version of this is the video. In centuries to come people will know far more about us than we could ever know about our ancestors because they will have true-to-life high quality moving images of what we got up to in our time.

So, when something as important as our annual children's convoy comes along it is important that we make a record of what is a wonderful day's achievement for our charity.

Convoys are all about trucks and we must never underestimate the importance of 80-odd immaculate trucks with their precious cargoes showcasing to the public what we do for our children. But, for this year our editor-in-chief, Ivan Hardy determined that our amateur movie production should encompass a great deal more than just a parade of trucks going by. To take a photo, provided you point the camera in the right direction, try and not cut someone's head off and keep your hands steady, you get a result. We have all seen wonderful results with pictures taken on a telephone, for goodness sake!

A movie is a bit different. Sure, you point the camera and all that jazz, but that's only the first part of a prolonged and often tedious process that transforms hours of raw video footage into a few minutes of entertaining movie.

With that in mind, Ivan recruited no less than eleven people with video cameras and I had the responsibility of going out for the day with just one of them, our old friend Don Edwards. In his retirement, Don makes superb wedding videos and amongst his clients are numbered some very important people.

Neither Don nor I are the sort of chaps that you would see pursuing celebrities on a motorbike. We're more your golf buggy, or footslogging team who do their best to catch up with the shots we need. Our job on convoy day was to concentrate on people with yours truly doing my best to emulate the professionals and get as many interviews as possible. This year, obviously, the major topic was the fact that the convoy's very existence was under threat. And, in that respect I spoke to a great many people who put aside their camera shyness and spoke up in our favour. We were able to collar a wide variety of interviewees from mayors to minors and we hope that the finished article will be a living testament to the support our charity enjoys as well as a piece of highly watchable entertainment.



Thus, for Don and me, like the rest of you, Convoy Day 2011 was quite a slog. Don's super professional grade Sony camera doesn't exactly slip into your pocket. Add the radio operated microphone and the tripod (essential for super-steady shots) and a pack-horse wouldn't have gone amiss particularly around Pleasurewood Hills. True, we got to use the golf buggy for some of the time. But, by the time we fell into my car to get to Gt. Yarmouth before the Grand Parade, we were both getting pretty footsore and weary.

Continued on Page 10

The day ended with some drama. Because we were struggling with all the kit through the milling crowds on Yarmouth seafront after the convoy had gone through, we were a bit late getting back into my car. Sitting in traffic on Breydon Bridge, we watched the convoy going through ahead of us. Bigger! We were scheduled to get back ahead of them to get the arrival back at County Hall on film. Swift "U-ey" on the bridge and a mad chase round the back doubles to try and get back by another route. I phoned ahead to Ivan from the car and said we weren't going to get back in time. I suggested that Don and Aggie, one of our stills photographers who was with us, relax as we weren't going to make it. However, that didn't stop me getting a wiggle on in spite of Don protesting that he might need to change his underwear. Therefore we were somewhat surprised to see people lining the roadside as we approached County Hall and I concluded that, unless they were already assembling for Convoy 2012, we had somehow got ahead of the trucks. Hastily we unloaded the kit and set up just in time to get the footage Ivan was relying on us to obtain. We were knackered and as I drove Don home I realised that what we had done was only part of the whole story. At the last count Don has 13 hours of raw footage from all the different cameras to sift through. Ivan has already been tearing his hair out trying to convert all the various film formats he has received into one manageable type that will work in Don's editing suite and software. But the job is now "work in progress" and we hope that not only will you all enjoy an entertaining film, but in a hundred or two hundred years time people will be able to look back and learn from our particular "work of art" exactly what East Coast Truckers were up to in 2011.

Children's Convoy.

Well, after a roller coaster of emotions and many hours of hard work, the evening of August 28th saw a very emotional Rob Billman confess to all that he had plans to walk away. Who could blame him? The children's convoy for many brings great joy. A day that brings all members to work together in perfect harmony. All the trials and tribulations of the year pale into insignificance to deliver some smiles to some special children. But for Rob Billman it is a burden that leaves him very much in the firing line, just as it did for Glenn. It's a virtual impossibility to please everyone. So why did I change my mind? Well, having spent the day with everyone, I had realised that I was the one that pulled the day together. Would anyone continue with the job if I stepped away? Possibly, but I can ill afford to take that chance. Being the one that had to deliver the tragic news that the children's convoy was under threat, it seemed only right that I should at least try to turn the situation around.

Relationships have been built with people. People whom I never expected to meet, let alone be on first name terms with. From this, a position of trust is built, a trust for which I will do the right thing so as to ensure that we may continue the children's convoy for years to come. The future for the children's convoy? Well, without wishing to tempt fate, the future is looking bright. BUT it is going to take some hard work, co-operation and compromise. These three things have managed to get the Children's Convoy through the first 26 years. The next few years are going to stretch everyone's tolerances to the limit.

Rob Billman.



A brilliant day!

Getting to Yarmouth early is great, there's no one around and it's so quiet. I was sitting in front of the ECT trailer enjoying a cup of tea at 6.45 am on Convoy Day, hoping the sun would stay around all day. Then Ray came round the corner and it was "set the trailer up time" again. Some while later the Norwich City supporters club turned up and set up their stall. I don't know why but Alli isn't very happy today. Never mind, at least I got my morning kiss.



After the electrics hook-up, fill up the kettle and we can have a cup of tea. Then Barbara turns up and I get another kiss. It's now turning out to be a sunny day.

Mr. James, the karaoke, sorry, entertainer sets up and start singing and then it rains. But only for a short while. You know when Mr. James sings Tom Jones it sounds just like him. Oh no! Marc is having a cup of coffee. He must be playing a CD.

He's drawing a big crowd especially ladies who love dancing and singing with him. Me, I'm wandering around with a collection bucket and some lollies and rock for the kids.

Suddenly the day has gone and it's time to pack up. The trailer's all closed now and we wait for the trucks to come through. We join the end of the convoy and wave at everybody and slowly make our way back to Norwich where the trailer and trucks part company.

What a brilliant time the Trailer has had today.

Ed's Note: Someone handed this to me at a club meeting and I've just typed it up for our magazine. Author is unknown. All I want to say is this. If this chap can give us such an entertaining and original story, SO CAN THE REST OF YOU!

ECTC Tymes is YOUR magazine. As our Delia would say "Let's be 'aving you!"