



The Grange Courier

We Are The Champions!

Falkirk Football Club and John Mitchell Haulage and Warehousing prove to be a winning combination.



Many congratulations to Falkirk FC who became Bell's Scottish Football League Division One Champions on Saturday April 19, 2003, with a decisive 4-1 victory over Arbroath. The match took place at the team's home ground, Brockville, in beautiful spring sunshine and in front of a capacity crowd, which included a number of our staff, who all enjoyed the party like atmosphere. After narrowly escaping relegation into Division Two last season the team faced an uphill struggle this year, but nevertheless performed magnificently, scoring some memorable victories along the way, particularly over some of the larger clubs.

For many years our company has had a considerable involvement in local sports organisations and we are delighted to be corporate supporters to Falkirk, or "The Bairns", as their supporters affectionately know them.

We wish the team well for next season and are proud to continue our association with this fine club; hopefully it won't be too long before we're watching Premier league football at their new Westfield stadium, which is currently under construction.



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People In The News

A Right Royal Day!

For almost one hundred years, the Grangemouth Children's Gala Day and Coronation Ceremony has been one of the social highlights of the year for our townsfolk. The event is superbly organised and run by unpaid volunteers and their committee, involving the children from all the town's four primary schools.

This year as well as our annually donated trucks for the procession, we were delighted and honoured to have additional involvement in the official ceremony when Mrs Jane Mitchell (wife of MD Iain) was invited to be the 'Lady To Crown The Queen'. As usual the day was attended and enjoyed by large numbers of people, with the weather managing to stay dry for most of the proceedings. Our picture shows Jane crowning Queen Stephanie, while her royal court looks on.



Twenty- five years behind the wheel! Well done to our long serving Driver Jimmy McDonald, (left) who recently clocked up his 'Silver Jubilee' with John Mitchell. Jimmy has seen a few changes in his time, mostly for the better, but all this adds up to unrivalled experience, which allows him to do his job exceptionally well.

Back in May, thousands of Celtic football fans made the pilgrimage to Seville to watch their heroes' play in the UEFA cup final, among them was our Traffic Operator John Heeps. On the night, intense heat and sheer bad luck robbed the Celts of the silverware, but the fans good behaviour and ability to enjoy themselves will be remembered for years to come.

A day to remember too, this time for David Nisbet another of our Traffic Operators who married Karen Jennifer Lightbody on June 7th. 2003, at Stenhouse & Carron parish Church. The reception at the Beancross, Polmont was an enjoyable, if not lively affair, with one guest breaking their pelvis during the dashing white sergeant! The happy couple spent an enjoyable honeymoon on the 'grand tour' of Italy and we're delighted to report that the aforementioned casualty is well on the way to recovery! David and his Beautiful bride are pictured right.

Last but not least, Angela Martin our Customer Service Supervisor gave birth to a bouncing baby boy; Jamie Robert on Saturday 9th August 2003. Mother and son are both doing well and we send them all our best wishes.



Fleet News



Over the last few months our fleet replacement program has continued on schedule with a number of new commercial vehicles supplied by German manufacturers MAN and Mercedes Benz. (Pictured left and right respectively). The annual Transport Industry showcase for Scotland; Truckfest, took place at The Royal Highland Showground, Ingliston on the first weekend in August. The display at the MAN Trucks stand included one of our latest vehicles; 'Grange Phantom' and a number of our drivers took their vehicles in for display in the fleet operators section. The event was again blessed with fine weather, which drew large crowds and our staff enjoyed a good social get together, which included a barbeque and a few light refreshments!



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We're on our Way With The Green Machines



"From Buckingham Palace to Broadway, San Francisco to Singapore, Melbourne to Madrid". That's the mighty impressive and probably unrivalled claim of Falkirk Based Applied Sweepers. Since 1965 this local firm have manufactured and delivered over 10,000 of their 'Green Machine' outdoor street sweepers across the world. We are delighted to have recently commenced work for this company with a new custom built, fully liveried trailer, which has a host of technical innovations for the safe and efficient transport of these wonderful vehicles, that help to keep our towns and Cities so clean.

Rear View Mirror

This time round we look back to 1975 and what a momentous year that was! John Mitchell had owned his own business for 19 years and steadily built his fleet up to 12 fine lorries. It was now time for him to take the big step of moving into a purpose built depot at Earls Road Industrial Estate. This proved to be a sound commercial decision, as the same (now expanded) premises still forms the base of our company's operations today.

Elsewhere, the mid seventies was a year of contrasting memories; it was when women were finally entitled to equal pay, The Bay City Rollers topped a tartan trimmed pop chart, 8 track tapes provided in-car stereo sound, Jaws scared everybody at the pictures and Kevin Keegan's curly perm kept hairdressers profits 'ahead', with thousands of football fans demanding copycat cuts!



Meanwhile back in good old Grangemouth, our picture shows the Gala Day in full swing with a old Mitchell lorry in Queen, Lynn Duncan's procession.



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The Two-Minute Interview

In the spotlight this month is the man who ensures that all the wheels of John Mitchell's vehicles keep turning smoothly and reliably! Stuart Allison is our hard working (and athletic looking) Fleet Engineer; lets see what starts his engine!

Briefly describe your job: The day-to-day running of our workshops and fleet.

What's the most enjoyable part of your work? Taking on a new challenge and seeing it successfully completed.

Where is your favourite place / holiday destination? Tenerife.

What are your hobbies and interests? Football and Laurel and Hardy.

What tape / CD are you listening to at the moment? Some Classical Music.

What was the last film you saw at the cinema? Harry Potter.

What is the best book you have read in the last 12 months? None.

What is your favourite TV program? Coronation Street.

If you won £10 million on the lottery, what would you spend it on? My family and a large cruiser boat.

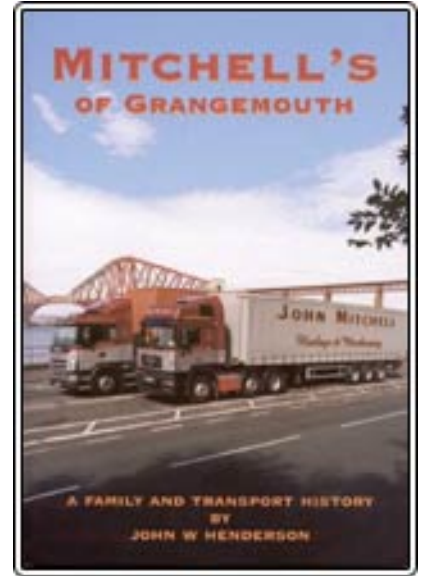
And finally, who would you most like to be stuck in a lift with? Tina Turner.



Order Shop

A book on our Family firm was published in November 2000. "Mitchell's of Grangemouth ", a family and transport history, by John W. Henderson is a 48-page lavishly illustrated history of the Mitchell family's carting, haulage and local involvement in the area's heritage from 1892 right up to present day.

To order a copy of this book please send a cheque or postal for £12 (includes postage and packing) To John Mitchell Haulage and Warehousing, Earls Road Industrial Estate, Grangemouth. FK3 8XA. Please allow 28 days for delivery.



To commemorate our success as 'Motor Transport UK Haulier of the Year 2002', we have commissioned top model makers Search Impex Ltd. to produce a detailed 1:43 rd. scale model of one of our MAN tractor units with a curtain side trailer. This model is an exclusive limited edition with only 100 units being produced; so early ordering will be essential to avoid disappointment. The cost of each model will be £95 with a charge of £5 for postage and packing if required. Please contact Lyn Sharpe at our office (01324 496307) to reserve your truck. Remember- first come first serve!

Competition



In this issue we offer readers the chance to win a stylish MAN trucks winter jacket! Pictured above is one of our MAN trucks working hard and heading for home on a winter's afternoon in East Lothian.

The question: in which country are MAN trucks manufactured?

E-mail your answer to newsdesk@johnmitchell.co.uk before 30th.December 2003. The winner will be drawn at random from the correct entries and the result will be announced in the next newsletter.

Congratulations to Mr. John English of Banbury, Oxon, whose winning entry was pulled from the mail sack for the model truck competition in newsletter no. 3. The correct answer was that all our trucks are named after Aircraft this year.