



The Grange Courier

Western Home to Victory!

Glenbervie Golf Club near Stirling was the venue for the annual John Mitchell golf trophy, which was held on Tuesday September the fourteenth. After a light lunch our guests set out on the course's fine fairways for an enjoyable and closely fought competition, played in mostly dry weather.



Angus McIntosh from Western Commercial (our Mercedes Benz truck supplier) was the eventual winner after playing a blistering last 9 holes, putting Jimmy Simpson from Thornbridge Sawmills into second spot.

In the evening the prize giving ceremony and a fine dinner was wholeheartedly enjoyed in the clubhouse, with Jim Robertson rounding the day off with a very amusing after dinner speech. Thanks to all who attended and made this such a good day.

Six of the Best for International Timber!

We are delighted to announce that we have recently renewed the contract with our next door neighbours, International Timber. Since 1994 we have provided vehicles and trailers in dedicated livery for the company, which is one of the country's major timber importers and distributors. The six new tractor units which are all MAN'S will travel the length and breadth of Scotland and northern England and feature a slightly revised and modernised graphics layout.



The trucks also come equipped with the new D20 common rail engines and our now standard 'Telematics' data monitoring system. We have high hopes for these vehicles and will monitor their ongoing performance closely. Early indications look promising, with some trucks returning almost 10 miles per gallon running fully loaded!

Service Improvements



At John Mitchell exceptional customer service is the centre of our world; all the company's operations revolve around it. To cater for the expansion and development of our client's needs, we have recently restructured our dedicated customer services and traffic office operations departments. We hope you notice the difference, if not please tell us (all communication details are listed on our website contact page). As always, our goal is for every one of our customers to be absolutely delighted with every job we do for them. We are working

constantly to expand and enhance of levels of service, so please watch this space for further developments!

Truckfest & New Fleet Additions

This years Truckfest was another splendid weekend which was held on the weekend of the last day in July / beginning of August. Once again the event was graced with fine weather and a record breaking amount of trucks on show, viewed by a massive crowd of a very interested general public and industry employees and their families, over both days.

Due to work and customer commitments we sent just 3 of our flagship vehicles to Ingliston this year but our drivers Derek Lindores, David Scobie and Jim McCartney did us proud presenting a trio of well cleaned, gleaming vehicles which were admired by many. We enjoy the atmosphere of this well established show, as it lets us catch up with many friends, old and new and enables visitors to meet and question our staff and get a close up detailed look inside and out of a modern top of the range heavy goods vehicle. The three John Mitchell 'ambassadors' are pictured above right, early on the Saturday morning, taking a quick break from the relentless polishing!





As well as the previously mentioned 6 MAN tractor units, we have recently put 2 Mercedes Benz trucks on the road in the colours of long standing customer Thornbridge Sawmills. Over the last few months our trailer replacement programme has also rolled out on schedule with more curtainsiders (pictured left) and an innovative sliding skeletal tipping trailer from manufacturer, Dennison joining our fleet.

The Two Minute Interview

As we've been talking customer service this issue, it seems logical to keep the spotlight on that area and feature a busy looking Susan Millar who managed to spare a couple of minutes to talk to us.



Briefly describe your job: Customer services - The link between John Mitchell and most of our transport customers.

What's the most enjoyable part of your work? When everything goes according to plan and the customer is happy - that gives good job satisfaction.

Where is your favourite place / holiday destination? Sydney, Australia

What are your hobbies and interests? Going to the gym and socialising.

What tape / CD are you listening to at the moment? Angie Stone.

What was the last film you saw at the cinema? Not really a cinema person, so not been for ages. Think the last film I saw was American Pie - The Wedding.

What's the best book you've read in the last 12 months? April Fools Day by Bryce Courtney, a true story, very sad, excellent!

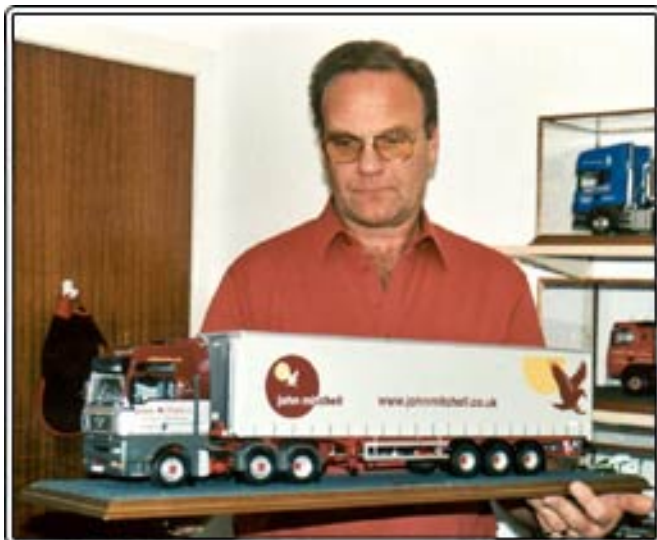
What's your favourite TV programme? Big Brother.

If you won £10 million on the lottery, what would you spend it on? Everything possible....!d give some to my family and friends....honest!

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

It's The Prize MAN!

Many congratulations to Richard Lack (pictured right), the Musselburgh based model truck maker who we featured in the last Grange Courier (no.6). Back in June, Richard made the long haul down to Gaydon in Warwickshire for one of the country's premier road transport shows, The CVRTC, which features vintage and modern real sized Lorries alongside a huge indoor display of models trucks from across Europe. Richard displayed a number of his models over the weekend and we are delighted to report that his John Mitchell masterpiece won first prize in the MAN trucks category, sponsored by Coca Cola. Another 3 awards also followed; with first and third prizes in the trailer section, sponsored by Dennison Trailers and a second place in the conversion class.



Rear View Mirror



This time we look back to 1987, a very industrious period for our company when the massive increase in container traffic volumes set us on the road to expansion. After much research we introduced our own-design 'Load and Hold', container handling service which would now provide our customers with a unique, bespoke transport and storage service. ERF trucks (pictured above) were king at Earl's Road in those days, the legendary 'C' series models forming the backbone of the then, 30 vehicle fleet and giving us many years of reliable service.

Elsewhere in 1987, the art world was pleasantly surprised when Van Gogh's painting 'Sunflowers' sold for a staggering 24 million at auction, Nike air trainers were the coolest thing to be seen on your feet, Madonna and Mel and Kim top the charts and the phrase 'Bunny Boiler' became part of the lingo, when a ever so slightly miffed Glenn Close cooked Michael Douglas's pet family rabbit in the film, Fatal Attraction. And finally, nights out would never be the same again after Karaoke arrived in Britain, most people assuming that the word meant 'really bad idea' in Japanese!

Another Model springs up!



In the world of model trucks they don't come much bigger and better than Corgi Classics.

Since the launch of their Modern Trucks range back in 1998, British truck enthusiasts have had an unequalled chance to buy a fine selection of 1:50 scale vehicles featuring some of the best liveries, as seen on our roads today. Back in September 2001, we were honoured when the company produced a fine replica of our MAN F2000 'Grange

Esk', complete with curtain side trailer. We now look forward to next spring, when the next John Mitchell vehicle to appear in the distinctive Corgi fleet livery packaging will be Grange Concorde, fleet no. 207, one of our MAN TGA XXL flagship vehicles, complete with our new style livery trailer. As usual this model will be a limited edition retailing at around approx £60-£70. Want to be one of the first to own this fine new model? See our competition section, next in the newsletter!

The Competition

This time round we're offering our readers the chance to win one of the first new Corgi John Mitchell MAN TGA models; if you know your Scottish tourist attractions- you should know the answer!

The Question: What is the name of this unique piece of engineering? (Pictured right)

Please e-mail your answer to newsdesk@johnmitchell.co.uk before 10th. March 2005. The winner will be drawn at random from the correct entries and the result will be announced in the next newsletter.



Congratulations to Diane Preece of County Armagh, whose winning email was pulled from a record number of entries, from the mail sack for the Mercedes Benz holdall and 'goodies' competition in newsletter no. 6. The correct answer was that this year all our trucks are named after birds of prey. Thanks to all who entered the competition and for those who have not won yet, keep trying! Next time it could be you!

John Mitchell Merchandise

We are pleased to offer the following official company products for sale; all prices include postage and packing. If you require any further information on these goods, please contact Lyn Sharpe at our office (tel. 01324 496307).

Painting



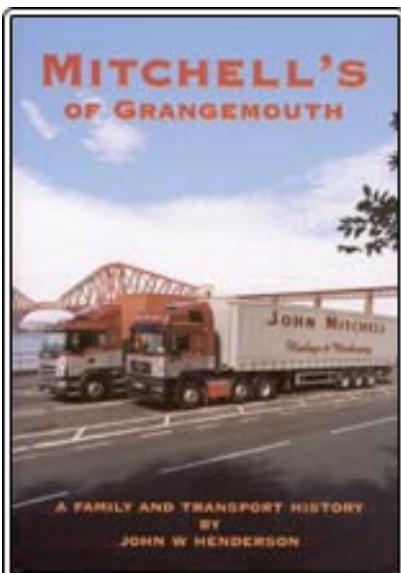
We have a small number of prints of Alan Spillett's classic painting available for sale. These Giclee fine art prints are produced to a very high standard and the image size is 10" x 14" with surrounding border. The cost per print is £40. Please allow six weeks for delivery and note that cheques sent will not be cashed until 1 week prior to despatch.

Model

To commemorate our success back in 2002 as 'Motor Transport UK Haulier of the Year', we commissioned top model makers Search Impex Ltd. To produce a detailed 1:43 rd. scale model of one of our MAN trucks. This model is a limited edition and the cost is £95.



Book



A book on our family firm was first published in November 2000. "Mitchells of Grangemouth", a family and transport history, is a 48-page well illustrated history of the Mitchell family's carting, haulage and local involvement in the area's heritage from 1892 right up to present day. The cost of this publication is £12.

Send your orders to: John Mitchell Haulage and Warehousing, Earls Road Industrial Estate, Grangemouth. FK3 8XA. Please allow 28 days delivery for the Book and Model.

Thank you for reading the Grange Courier, if you have a story or picture that you think would be suitable for our magazine, please mail us at newsdesk@johnmitchell.co.uk

