



The Grange Courier

Kings of the Castle!



The main celebration event to mark our golden anniversary year took place at Airth Castle Hotel and Spa Resort on Friday June 16th. Around 180 guests from across the locality and in fact, Europe joined us for this very successful event, with attendees travelling from as far a field as, England, Ireland, Wales, Holland, Belgium, France, Germany and even Grangemouth!

The evening started off with a champagne reception on the manicured lawns in the front of the old castle, with the historic building flanked by new John Mitchell trucks and special flags to mark this notable occasion.

Thankfully the weather was warm and dry and our group mixed well, meeting old and new acquaintances', before being led down to the main function hall by the piper. Once inside and seated, some short speeches by our MD Iain Mitchell who was "delighted to be in a position to welcome everyone to our celebration" and MAN'S Sandy Millar who through his kind words "toasted the success of John Mitchell's landmark 50 years in business."

A superb five course dinner was followed by entertainment and dancing to Frank Curran's Big Band.

Thanks to all who attended and made this event such a special night to remember.





Operations Update

Firstly we are delighted to welcome Frans van Hoof to our appointed office team, who joins us as bulk transport supervisor. Frans comes from a background steeped in wet and dry bulk transportation and his appointment comes at an appropriate time just when our tank trailer division is expanding.

We have recently put 2 new Feldbinder road tanks (pictured left and right) into operation which both feature different designs and livery applications to suit their particular designated work applications.



For the last few months our customer traffic operations have also been steadily rising and subsequently we have increased this year's vehicle order from 20 to 25 tractor units to meet these circumstances.

All our drivers have now completed the 'SAFED' (Safe and Fuel Efficient Driving) course which was carried out by our full time driver trainer over the last few weeks and this initiative was also part funded by the Scottish Executive.

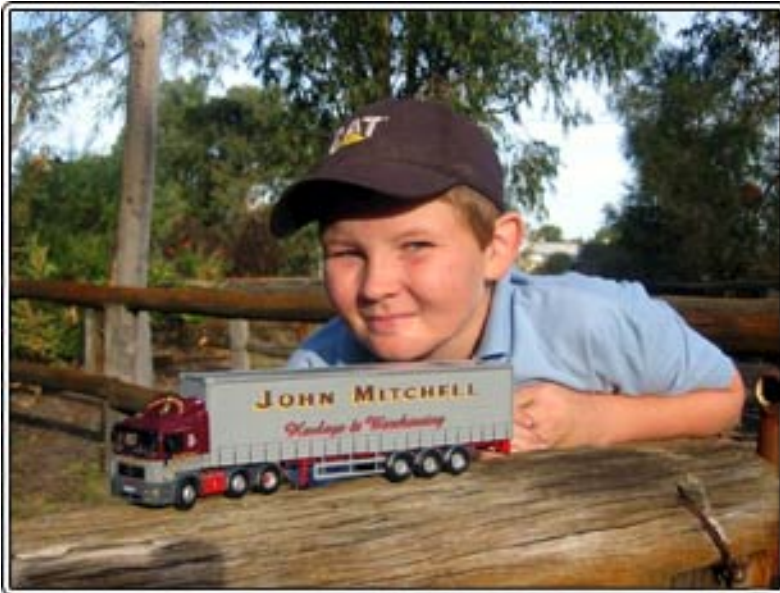
Although current fuel prices continue to give us concern, the course showed our staff how to get the most of out every litre of diesel, so the phrase 'every little helps' is very apt for haulage contractors these days and not just for major supermarket chains!

Additionally, the ongoing safety aspect of the recent training is always welcome with our constant focus on this all important subject.

Since May 1st, all our new trucks have been delivered with the new industry standard, digital tachographs and these give more accurate control over vehicle operations & working hours. We have also invested in office based, state of the art recording systems for these units, which alongside our current satellite enabled 'Telematics' data transfer equipment, allow us enhanced monitoring and cost control of the fleet.



More news from down under!



Following on from our John Mitchell promotional umbrella in New Zealand article last issue, we had a very interesting email originating from Pinjarra, Western Australia.

Six years ago Gordon Ferguson moved from a farm near Thornhill, west of Stirling to the aforementioned town which is about 1 hour's drive south of Perth, W.A, but he and his family still keep in touch with our developments through the Grange Courier.

We were very taken with the photo attached to Gordon's email (left), which shows his son; Ali who is a fan of our trucks and collects the Corgi models reproduced in the Mitchell livery! Is this

the furthest one of our model trucks or corporate items has travelled? Or do you know differently? Let us know and we'll feature any long distance stories in the next edition of this newsletter.

Back closer to home now and from across the English Channel we received a very nice letter from 15 year old Sonia Bertrand, who lives in Olivet, France. Sonia is very interested in colours, design and drawing and took time to contact us after seeing a picture of one of our trucks in a magazine. She was particularly complimentary about our 'flying Osprey' livery and the use of metallic maroon, silver and red on our vehicles.

We are always delighted when people contact us to comment favorably on the appearance of our trucks, as the history and current impact of our corporate identity is very important to us.

The Two Minute Interview

In the spotlight this month is our full time driver trainer and recruiter; Craig Simpson. Let's see what steers his interests!

Briefly describe your job - Driver trainer / Driver Recruitment.

What's the most enjoyable part of your work? - I enjoy all the aspects, especially recruitment.

Where is your favourite place / holiday destination? - My favourite place is probably America and holiday destination is a cruise to anywhere!

What are your hobbies and interests? - Radio controlled modelling and breeding and exhibiting exhibition blower pigeons.

What tape / CD are you listening to at the moment? - A mixture of Keane, They Might Be Giants, The Feeling and Coelbeg.

What was the last film you saw at the cinema? - The Da Vinci Code - Excellent!

What's the best book you've read in the last 12 months? - Quigley - Run For Home.

What's your favourite TV programme? -Anything on the Discovery, History and Geographic Channels.

If you won £10 million on the lottery, what would you spend it on? - Travel, Travel, Travel and a large share in Jimmy Chung's Chinese Restaurants.

And finally, who would you most like to be stuck in a lift with? - Some-one who could get me out!



Glorious Golfing at Gleneagles!



Monday 11th September 2006 saw around 40 of our guests arrive at the PGA centenary course, Gleneagles for the annual John Mitchell golf day.

Freelance professional; Gordon Sherry played a couple of holes with each team, giving welcome advice on club techniques and detailed information on the respective fairways and bunker hazards.

After a day's hard fought competition in the beautiful late summer sunshine, Lex Miller (pictured left) ended up top of the players with the overall winner's award.

Bill Ferrie, Blair McKellar and John Marshall (pictured right) scooped the team prize.

After a superb dinner in the hotel's Barony Room, guests enjoyed a rare insight into the game by Mr Sherry, who recalled his involvement in the Walker Cup team, life at the US masters and the highs and lows of being a Kilmarnock supporter!

We extend our gratitude to all who participated and assisted to make this day such a fine success.



Our Truckfest Team!

The annual Scottish industry showcase event at the Royal Highland Showground, Ingliston took place this year on the weekend of the 5th / 6th August.

Once again our small volunteer team of drivers did us proud displaying a trio of our top of the range tractor units which were polished to perfection for the many visitors to admire.

The MAN trucks dealership stand also displayed one of our specially liveried, 50 year tractor units as the centrepiece of its stand and this vehicle received many favourable comments too!

A big well done to Jim McCourtney, Stuart MacDougall, David Scobie and Stevie Garrow for their hard work and commitment over that weekend.



Rear View Mirror



Its back just one decade for this editions look back on how things used to be.

1996 would prove to be a landmark year for our company, not just because we were celebrating 40 years in business, but also in that March we would place our then biggest ever vehicle order of 14 tractor units with a new supplier; MAN trucks.

With our fleet consisting of just under 40 vehicles at that time, the newly delivered Munich built motors would expand the fleet by around a third, which then worked out of our 2 depots at Thornbridge and Earls Road. This bulk purchase was a calculated business decision and would prove to be the first of many subsequent volume vehicle orders, which all go

to keep our fleet's average age at two and a half years old. This ongoing policy has helped us deliver reliable customer service and provide our drivers with modern & comfortable, up to date equipment.

Elsewhere in the world, the mid 1990's saw mobile phones coming into fashion, the film 'Trainspotting' packing them in at the cinema, the rise of girl power as the Spice girls topped the charts and the reinvention of the chat show with Chris Evans' TGI Friday.

Back in Grangemouth our 100th truck; named 'Grange Chairman' after company founder; John Mitchell is pictured shortly after entering service.

Craig's World of Sport

Congratulations to Craig Charleston one of our Traffic Controllers who recently joined the elite of footballing referees, with his appointment as a grade 1 official. Craig has been involved in supervising 'the beautiful game' since 1997 and has worked hard to gradually rise through the various ranks of qualifying levels and getting to the top grade, where he now 'kicks off' as the fourth official in Scottish Premier league matches.

Not content with juggling a full time job in our office, family life and a hectic training schedule, our super fit controller is about to travel across the pond for the New York Marathon in November. During the run he will be raising money for the charity; "Get Kids Going", who provide facilities in sport for disabled children, so they can participate regardless of their situation.

If you would like to help Craig on his marathon journey, raising money for this truly worthy cause, please contact him at craig.charleston@johnmitchell.co.uk or call us on 01324 486511.



And finally, some 'Dram Good' news!

A most welcome and surprise gift which arrived at our offices recently was this very special bottle of whisky.

To mark our landmark golden year, our customers; Diageo have produced this unique bottle, complete with its very special label featuring one of our trucks, the business anniversary dates and a congratulatory message.

Needless to say our MD; Iain now has this on display, thankfully still untouched, in his office!

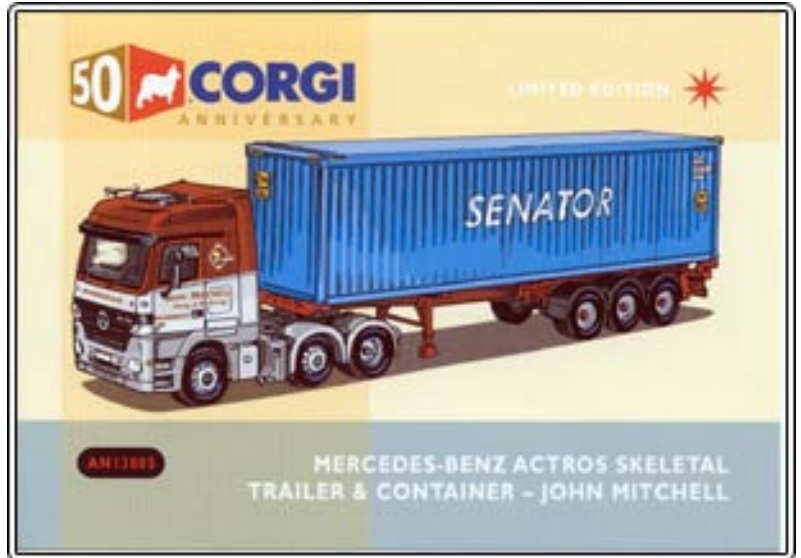


News on the last edition's competition

Congratulations to Moyra Yule of Aberdeenshire whose winning email was pulled from the mail sack for the 50th anniversary John Mitchell / Corgi model truck and Next vouchers competition in newsletter no. 10. The correct answer was of course, 'New Zealand' Thanks to all who entered the competition.

For this month's edition we thought we would take a break from the usual competition and do something different. We have decided to donate a sum of money to a local good cause; Strathcarron Hospice in Denny to recognise the ongoing excellent care they provide to patients and their families in our community.

Next year will see more new John Mitchell promotional items being introduced and our competition will return then to offer our readers a chance to win some of our latest goodies!



John Mitchell Merchandise

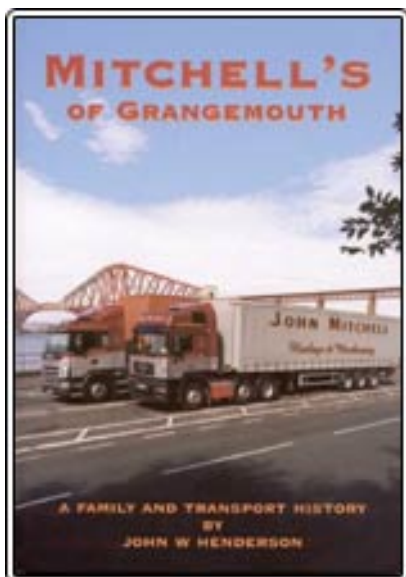
We are pleased to offer the following official company products for sale; all prices include postage and packing. If you require any further information on these goods, please contact Lyn Sharpe at our office (tel. 01324 496309).

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.

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.

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
