

Truro salutes 'The Few'



From 29th August to 11th September, a replica Spitfire was on display at Truro, as part of celebrations to mark the 60th Anniversary of VE/VJ day, culminating in a county-wide service held in Truro Cathedral.

The call for volunteers to help out as stewards was answered by Alan Hillman, our attendant at Iceland Truro, whose father served in France with 132 (City of Bombay) Squadron between 1943 and 1944. Alan, photographed in authentic flying jacket and helmet, said "Fortunately for the safety of Europe, they only let me handle a replica."

Cornwall has a great affinity with the Spitfire, as many of the components were manufactured and serviced in the county, just 200 yards from the site of the replica aircraft.

Despite his disguise, many of the customers from Iceland recognised Alan, and asked him if he had given the plane a ticket, or if he was going to book it. The Manager of Iceland asked if he was going to clamp it! (Of course, we don't clamp anything, even cars.)

Anyway, you look very dashing as one of the 'Brylcream Boys', Alan. Eat your heart out, Biggles!

A helping hand

Head Office recently received the following letter from Joy Whitworth of Bridgnorth, Shropshire:

"I would like to bring to your attention the kindness that was shown to me at Matalan Car Park, Kidderminster, by a member of your staff (I think his name is Tom). My car had a flat tyre and without hesitation upon asking for his assistance, he offered to help with enthusiasm. If only we had more people like this."

The attendant in question is Tom Simmonds, and we would like to add our thanks to that of Joy Whitworth. Another TCP 'Knight in Shining Armour'! Well done, Tom!

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Bernie's space

Christmas seems to start earlier and earlier. For most of our clients it starts around Easter. We start planning for Christmas and the impact it will have on our car parks and manpower around about September but no matter how early one starts there always come a time when you realise that there isn't enough time. This year the run in has been particularly busy and I know this has put extra pressure on many of us. As we count down to Christmas can I thank everyone at TCP for all of your hard work and diligence, and not just for this busy period, but for the whole of 2005. I hope you have a very happy Christmas!



Some other news to let you know of:

We began operating in Northern Ireland for the first time in October as Asda opened 10 stores across the country.

The purchase of our Liverpool office should be completing around now and we will be carrying out a major renovation of the building again in the New Year.

A new training DVD/Video for the hand held computer is in the pre production stage at the moment. Several of our colleagues will be 'starring' in this production filming for which takes place in the Manchester area in January. It should be available in February.

All the best,

Bernie

TCP Howler

We recently received the following enquiry on our website:

"Dear Sir, I work in Portsmouth on fixed night shift. Myself and approximately 20 other colleagues have been parking in the car park between the hours of 2100 and 0530, Monday to Friday. We work fixed night shift and there is nowhere else to park, as we are in the city centre and our building does not have its own car park. Would it be possible for us to still park in the car park just in the hours stated. We would appreciate it as there really is nowhere else safe in the area for us, and we also have ladies working nights."

We have withheld the author's name to avoid embarrassment - and the name of the car park to avoid overcrowding!

Our hero

Our regular attendant at Retford, Steve Spavold, proved a true Sir Lancelot recently, as he rushed to the aid of a damsel in distress.

On 8th October Steve was assisting Marshalls at Hyson Green during the local Goose Fair. He heard a cry for help and noticed that the greeter from Asda was trapped by a man in the corner of the car park. Without a thought for himself, he ran to the greeter's assistance, putting an arm lock on the man, wrestling him to the ground and holding him there until security arrived.

The man had stolen a bottle of whisky from the store and, unbeknown to Steve, had attacked the security guard with a knife and a hypodermic syringe. He had then fled from the store, pursued by the greeter, on whom he then turned and threatened her. If Steve hadn't been on hand, the lady greeter may have been seriously injured.

When asked if he was fearful, he said, "I didn't even think about it. There was a lady in urgent need of assistance, so I did all I could to help. It was afterwards that I realised the gravity of the situation."

We're very proud of you, Steve. Many thanks for being a 'knight in shining armour'.

Alan meets snooker hero



A chance encounter with former snooker supremo, Steve Davis, recently provided a great photo opportunity for TCP Area Supervisor East Midlands, Alan Calko.

Alan and his wife were out for a meal at the Sunborn Yacht Hotel at the Excel Centre in London. Having spotted the seven times World Snooker Champion, Alan asked Steve's 'minder' if the couple could have the opportunity to meet him. After his meal, Steve duly obliged, wandering over for a chat and a few photos.

Alan said, "He is a really nice man and it was good of him to spare us the time for a chat."

Steve Davis commentates regularly for the BBC at snooker tournaments around the country, so keep your eyes peeled, and you may just be on cue for an interview too!



On Her Majesty's Service

In September, John Baverstock, our man at Sainsbury's Shirley, headed for his annual 'camp' with the TA (Territorial Army), in North West Germany.

He is attached to RMEE (Royal Mechanical and Electrical Engineers) 128 Workshop Company, based in Portsmouth and whilst in Germany his unit was based at the 2nd Battalion RMEE at Fallingbostal.

During this time he was undergoing training on repair and maintenance of Tanks and Transport Carriers, which was a change from the usual lorries and light transports which he usually gets involved with. It is also a far cry from the cars he deals with at Sainsbury's Shirley.

He said that it was hard work and long hours, and try as he might, he couldn't find a windscreen to put a ticket on the tank as they don't have windscreens. Perhaps next time!

WELCOME HOME JOHN AND WATCH OUT UNAUTHORISED PARKERS, WE KNOW A MAN WITH A TANK!!



Party time at Head Office...

It's not all hard work at Head Office, as this photo of a recent social gathering shows. On 16th September we got together to wish Angela Wain a very happy retirement. Not everyone on the staff is shown, because of holidays and the fact that one person is behind the camera, but here are the names to fit the assembled crew (from left to right):

Anne Robbie, Allison Nichol, Paul Stewart, Vera Dunbar (seated), David Edmeads, Angela Wain, George Alexander, John Aitchison, Debbie Wilson, Leanne Cunningham (in front) and Lynda McLeod.

Not such a scary bunch are we?

Notice Board

John and Carol celebrate their Silver Wedding

On 25th August, John Saxty and his wife Carol celebrated 25 years of happy marriage. They have 4 children who have now grown up and left home, so now there is more time for them to enjoy their lives together. Congratulations to you both!

New Baby Girl

On 13th October, Gavin Mullen, TCP Operations Manager, and his wife Samantha became parents for the second time. Isabella Emily-Jane weighed in at 7lbs 13ozs. Gavin is now outnumbered three to one, but no doubt the ladies in his life spoil him rotten! Warmest congratulations to you all.

Retirement

On 8th October our Iceland St Albans attendant, Vic Jessop, retired after 4 years service. He has decided to take it easy for a while and, after a rest, will be looking for a small indoor job to while away some of the time he will have to spare. We would like to thank him for his years of service and wish him a long and happy retirement. You lucky fella!

Farewell

Readers may remember Debbie Wilson from our 'Meet the Team' feature in the last issue. Well, it seems she has decided the fame is too much and left us for pastures new on November 11th. She was travelling from Aberdeen to Perth to work and was losing precious time with her family, so has opted for a part-time job nearer home. Best wishes and good luck for a bright and happy future!

Debbie will be replaced by Elaine Montgomery who will be joining us on 12th December. Elaine will be as accessible as Debbie and you can speak to her on: 07795 061558. Welcome to the 'TCP family' Elaine!

Introduce a friend and earn £75!

We have vacancies for parking attendants and marshalls throughout the UK. If you can introduce a friend to assist our recruitment campaign, we will award you £75 (£25 on commencement of employment and a further £50 after 3-month probationary period). With Christmas coming up, this is a good opportunity to earn a little extra and help us too. Just contact your Area Supervisor or HR in Perth on 01738 440933/07795 061558 to introduce a friend.

John and Tracey tie the knot!

On 2nd September John Evans, our attendant at Asda Handsworth, was married to Tracey Simpson at Sheffield Town Hall. Mr & Mrs Evans honeymooned in Blackpool where they enjoyed the annual Illuminations. We wish them both our very best wishes for a long and happy life together.

Meet the team

This issue's staff focus features Mike Appleby, our Accounts Department Manager.

Mike joined TCP in January 2001, when he swelled the ranks of Head Office staff to six (now the team has grown to 14 people). Prior to joining TCP, Mike spent over 40 years as an accountant in the textile industry.

Mike's department is responsible for ensuring that all our clients are charged and pay for the services provided by you, our employees. They also ensure that our suppliers are paid and account for all the cash from the 150 plus pay and display sites that we operate.



Mike also produces monthly management accounts, which enable Bernie to track the financial progress of the company and ensure that we remain viable and profitable.

Mike lives with his wife, Jean, in the historic village of Auchtermuchty (for the Sassenachs amongst us, it is pronounced 'Oktermukty'), famous for Jimmy Shand, Dr Findlay's Casebook and the Proclaimers. He lists his hobbies as crossword puzzles, Suduko, reading, light gardening and spoiling his two grand-daughters.

So what does Mike consider to be the most rewarding thing about working for TCP? "It's being part of a rapidly expanding company," he says, "Particularly after a lifetime of working in what was, in common with most manufacturing in Britain, a declining textile industry."



Bill, the TCP Attendant

Fashion at the Metro Centre

Following his success on TV (August issue), Bill Pointer, our man at the Metro Centre, Gateshead, is extending his career to the cat walk.

The Metro Centre were doing a special feature for their Christmas magazine following the TV program, 'Trouble in Store' broadcast in June. Several of their staff, our Bill included, were taken to Debenhams and given a make over. Bill was given a good haircut and dressed 'to kill'.

Bill said 'It was a good day being pampered, but unfortunately, the clothes had to go back'. You will agree he's a handsome model.

On 16th October Bill was invited to the boardroom at the Metro Centre for drinks followed by an evening Soiree. I hope that the fame hasn't gone to his head and that he stays the loveable TCP Attendant we all know. Be careful Bill, you know what fame did to Kate Moss!



Bill or is it DEL BOY?

Win £50 worth of M&S vouchers!

The closing date for the October's caption competition has been extended to 31st December, so you have an extra month to give us some classic captions. Come on everyone, I know that there is a wealth of humour out there. There is £50 of M&S vouchers at stake and the number of entries is only limited by your imagination.

I only have 3 entries outside of Head Office and that is because I bully everyone! Don't let Head Office win every time! The honour of the attendants is at stake!

The winning entry and runners up will be printed in the February issue. Let's make it a competition that will make Bernie roll around with laughter.

