

# TAXI DAY 2007 IN MALDON

Back in 1952, Charlie Flemwell the taxi driver father of Kenny Flemwell, began the annual outing to Maldon in Essex. At that time Maldon was the only Essex town which showed any interest in playing host to the trip of special needs children – this year’s visit was as popular as ever with residents, business owners and schoolchildren lining the route.

Setting off from schools in the East End of London, the children (and the carers) were excited to see so many people come out of their shops and homes to wave the taxis on their way to Essex. The convoy met up on the road forming a brightly coloured convoy of taxis decorated with balloons, streamers and toys. Following a stop at George and Dragon pub, Ingatestone the convoy set off on the last leg of its journey to Maldon. The Plume School in the town played host to the children, their carers and the taxi drivers. Police outriders from the Met police had seen the convoy set off from London and they were joined by colleagues from the Essex force once over the border. The sound of cab horns hailed the arrival of the convoy of 75 cabs and support vehicles. Many of the pupils were in fancy dress and some of them played musical entertainment for the taxi drivers whilst they enjoyed their traditional roast dinner with strawberries and cream for dessert. The children and their carers enjoyed their lunch in a separate hall with the pupils entertaining them.



The taxi drivers then took the children to the Promenade Park, where they enjoyed activities which included pony rides and a Birds of Prey Show. The weather was kind on the day, especially considering the amount of rain in the previous few days. The children went home with gifts of toys, colouring books and balloons. The memories of this day were caught on camera as well, showing the delight of the

children enjoying a day out.

Taxi Day has become a tradition which everyone in Maldon looks forward to. The late Charlie Flemwell brought five cab loads of underprivileged children to the town for an outing – he would have been proud to see this year’s outing and the warm reception the people of Maldon offer. The committee for this event, headed by Kenny “Spanners” Flemwell would like to thank everyone involved in making the outing possible and so successful, including all the sponsors and the cab drivers.

If you are looking for a day out, Maldon welcomes all visitors. The Promenade is well tended and kept and the walks along the river are lovely. There is a children’s splash park, open subject to the weather, a huge sandpit, a small fairground to keep the children entertained, as well as cafes and ice cream parlours. At the far end of the park are two pubs with outdoor areas where you can sit and watch the world go past. The town itself has a traditional High Street with smaller shops offering everything from books to clothing and camping equipment.

