

CARRY ON CAB FOUND ON ISLE OF WIGHT

Back in 1963, the film Carry On Cabby starred Sid James as Charlie Hawkins, the owner of Speedie Cabs. In the film Sid James was married to Peggy, played by Hattie Jacques. Originally entitled 'Call Me A Cab', the film was re-titled after production, because it just 'fitted' very well with the rest of the "Carry On" films. In the film, Peggy gets fed up of her husband spending all his time cabbing and then sets Glam Cabs - with the newest cars, new premises, and an all-female workforce. Amongst the cabs featured in the film was an FX3 that was used by Sid James.

London Taxi Exports recently made an amazing find; dry stored on the Isle of Wight, the original FX3 from the film. The taxi has been in the family that loaned the cars for the film for many years and



was one of several that was used during filming. The original fleet has long been disposed off but this one was kept back as being the favourite cab of the comedian Benny Hill amongst others who always wanted the same taxi when visiting the island.

There are many pictures from that era in the sixties that the original owner still has in her possession showing Sid James and the gang of the Carry On Films using this taxi.

John Bradley, owner of London Taxi Exports, told Taxi Globe: "We have just recovered the vehicle back to our works and it will join the other two FX3's that we have here, plus our super FL1 and of course the Beardmore that are part of our fleet of historic taxis that are kept here for film and wedding hire."

ADVERTISING APPROVAL FOR BOURNEMOUTH CABS

Unlike London and many other major towns and cities in the UK, where liveried taxis are a common sight, down on the south coast Bournemouth has historically prohibited the advertising of relevant businesses on any taxis in the town. Now after



more than two years of campaigning, United Taxis has been successful in its latest application to The Taxi Drivers' Licensing Board. A licence has been granted to carry adverts on each Hackney cab and private hire vehicle in its 150-strong fleet.

United Taxis director, Mike Ball, said: "It is a natural progression that our fleet should be allowed to carry advertising. In these days of increased fuel costs and expansion in advertising media we all welcome this decision, which we have really fought hard for! We are now actively seeking high-profile advertisers. United Taxis is the largest fleet in Dorset and has the rights to Bournemouth International Airport, collectively we represent a superb advertising opportunity."

GT ACADEMY NAMES WINNING DRIVERS

A taxi driver from Bonn and a student will be joining the Nissan racing team at the Dubai 24hr endurance race in January 2009. GT Academy, an international driving competition from PlayStation® and Nissan, has found its winners following a gruelling, week-long international final at iconic British racetrack Silverstone. 28-year old Lars Schlömer, from Germany and 23-year old Lucas Ordoez from Spain beat 20 other competitors from across Europe to be crowned the GT Academy champions. The pair now face a four-month intensive training programme with Nissan's race team to earn their racing licence and compete in the ultimate test of driving skill and stamina: the Dubai 24hr endurance race in January 2009.

Taxi driver Lars Schlömer said: "I have wanted this for the last ten years of my life but I just never had the chance. This is amazing. I truly would



have been heartbroken if I hadn't won. I would not have entered this competition if I did not believe I could win because coming to Silverstone and not winning would have been like giving a dog a bone and then taking it away again!"

THE FOOD CHAIN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Every Sunday morning teams of volunteers get together at six borrowed kitchens across London to plan, prepare, cook and deliver meals to some of London's growing population of people are living with HIV. With over 650 meals to deliver every Sunday (and The Food Chain has been providing its Sunday meal service for 20 years every Sunday!), the Charity is always looking for volunteer drivers to get more meals to more service users.

The Food Chain was started at Christmas 1988 by a group of friends who sought to bring a smile as well as a hot meal to those they knew who were unwell with Aids and HIV. From that tiny start, the Charity has grown over the years to deliver meals across London, as well as other nutritional services, such as grocery boxes, emergency hampers and nutritional advice. With kitchens in Kentish Town, Highbury, Stepney Green, Bermondsey, Tooting and Hammersmith, The Food Chain Sunday Service is entirely staffed by volunteers - nearly 1,000 in total.

It isn't difficult to recruit volunteers to help with cooking on a Sunday. But it is hard to find drivers with their own vehicles willing to give up part of their Sunday to help out. The Food Chain is particularly keen to expand the number of people in east London who receive Sunday meals but cannot do that without more volunteer drivers. Volunteer Food chain drivers work with a volunteer navigator to deliver hot and cold meals to 8 to 10 service users from 11am to 3pm. Volunteers are asked to make a commitment of one Sunday a month, though which Sunday that happens to be is up to the volunteer. The Food Chain will reimburse fuel costs. If you are interested in making a difference to the lives of some of London's HIV population please do consider getting in contact with The Food Chain.

More information about what The Food Chain does and a copy of their volunteer application form can be found at <http://www.foodchain.org.uk>

If you would like to speak to someone about what volunteering involves then you can also contact the Food Chain's Volunteer Administrator at chris.gurney@foodchain.org.uk or on 020 7354 0333.