

THE CARGO CHRONICLE



August 2024

CARGO, CONTAINERS & CRAZINESS

Another Sizzling Summer!



A Word From Chadd...

Hey, hey!

It seems another few months have slipped by and we're already past the halfway mark for 2024.

So what has this year brought us so far? Well, here in the UK, we've got a new government. Rishi and his gang of merry men lost the election, giving us a Labour government for the first time in 14 years.

The Baltimore bridge collapsed, taking the lives of several men, and reminding us of the sheer power of these cargo ships we're so used to working with.

Donald Trump has made history - twice! Once for being the first former US president to get convicted of a felony (well, 34 to be precise) and then more recently, for dodging a bullet - literally!

And Taylor Swift caused "Swiftly-fever" and became the first musician to reach billionaire status from music and concerts alone.

I'll tell you what it hasn't brought us though - The European Championship! Once again us Englishmen (and women!) had our hopes raised and our hearts broken when Spain won the Euro 2024 finals.

Despite the ups and downs that 2024 has brought us, there's been one thing here at Millennium Cargo that has been consistent. My incredible team. No matter what the world throws at us or our customers, the team have pulled out all the stops and delivered (quite literally).

I don't know what the rest of 2024 has in store, but I do know that my team will handle it. So here's the chaps and lasses behind the scenes, in my business and in yours, let's make them feel appreciated.

Amazing Amazon

What we learned from a day behind the scenes

Thanks to Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, Connor recently had the great opportunity to attend an "Amazon Innovation Accelerator" event at the local Amazon site at Peddimore, Birmingham. This exclusive two-day event gives selected business owners a peek behind the curtain, with a tour of the facilities as well as leadership workshops by some of the key people in the company.

The Peddimore site is the UK's newest fulfillment center, and as you'd expect, it has all the latest innovations, including robots!

Over the course of the event, Connor got to see how the robotic fulfillment centers really work behind the scenes, witnessing a real-life same-day delivery completed in just 11 minutes! He engaged in workshops and events on topics such as leadership principles, and the culture of innovation, and heard the tale of Amazon's rise and the challenges they have faced.

It was a truly incredible experience, with lots of key takeaways and lessons to be learned. We can't compete with the big boys, but that doesn't mean we can't learn from them!

The most impactful insight Connor brought away with him was about the importance of culture within an organisation. We all know that the people within our business can make it or break it, but how much time, effort and energy do you put into shaping your company culture? A good culture doesn't happen by accident, you have to create it.

So once again, a big thank you to Birmingham Chamber for organising this for us, it really was an eye-opener.



How Big Is Too BIG?

Big, Long, Heavy or Awkward Cargo? We Can Help!

At Millennium Cargo, we don't just move your everyday containers, but we offer a project cargo service too. No matter how big, wide, heavy or oddly-shaped your cargo is, we've got a solution to get it moving.



Give us a call on **+44(0) 121 311 0550** and we'll be happy to help.

ISO Accreditation



We are thrilled to announce that Millennium Cargo has recently been awarded ISO 9001 accreditation. This prestigious certification reflects our commitment to quality management and continuous improvement, ensuring we deliver the highest standards of service to our valued customers. Thank you for your continued support and trust in our company.

Cargo Tracking

With more than 30 years of experience in freight, we know how to take the stress out of importing, exporting and relocating your goods. Our team of freight experts and trusted overseas partners will take care of your cargo every step of the way – making sure your goods get to where they need to go, safely and on schedule. We don't understand your need to know exactly where your goods are, so we provide you with tracking information directly from our website, just click on the links and follow the instruction.

TRACK YOUR VESSEL
AIS SHIP TRACKER

TRACK YOUR AIR CARGO
TRACK - TRACE

CASE STUDY | ManTech

A “Handy” Tale of ATA Carnet Success

We all know the pains of import taxes, but what happens when you need to move goods between countries that are not for sale?

ManTech Automation Ltd found themselves in that exact position earlier this year when they were contracted to install some electrical components in a large manufacturing hub in Belgium.

Like any good tradesperson, they needed their tools to get the job done, but were unsure of how to get them through customs without getting stung with import tax (in both directions!)

That’s where we stepped in to help. Connor worked with

them to ensure they had all the documentation they needed, including an ATA Carnet.

The ATA Carnet is a special document that can be used for things that are moving in or out of a country, but not being sold. Think filming props and cameras for the movie industry, exhibition equipment, or tools... It prevents the items from being seized at customs and means you don’t have to pay duties and taxes on them.

With all the paperwork in order, ManTech was able to take their essential tools (a whole 6 boxes of them!) to Belgium to complete the project, without any stress, hassle or duties due.



Chadd’s Suggestions to watch and read

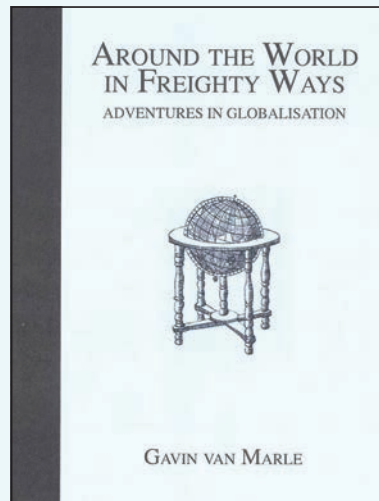
Watch



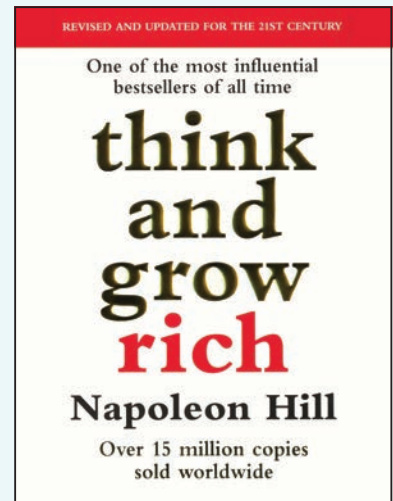
A gritty comedy-drama based on real events. Bermondsey Tales: Fall Of The Roman Empire tells the story of South London crime family The Roman’s as infighting, cozzers and rival firms put everything they have worked for at risk. Featuring our very own Mr Keith Whitrod who is in this movie.

(More about Keith on the back page...)

Read



A first-hand account of the inner workings of globalisation from the days of manic growth in the noughties. Gavin van Marle puts into perspective the unsung heroes of world trade, the simple shipping container and the freight people who move them around the world.



After interviewing over 500 of the most affluent men and women of his time, Napoleon Hill uncovered the secret to great wealth. By applying the thirteen steps that of Hill’s formula, you can achieve your goals, change your life and join the ranks of the rich and successful.



JOKE

**What do you get when you cross a freight train with a vampire?
The Transylvania Express!**

Unsung Heroes

How many freight forwarders does it take to change a light bulb?

This is one of our favourite social media posts in case you missed it!

Just one, but they'll need a customs declaration, a shipping container, and a logistics plan spanning three continents to get it done!

I love a good joke me... but this one has a true ring to it. You see, unless you've worked in freight, it can be really easy to underestimate the level of thought, planning and implementation that goes into moving goods from one country to another. It's a hugely complex process. And one with catastrophic consequences if it goes wrong.

Lost cargo, damaged goods, destroyed inventory, unexpected expenses, and even fines and prison sentences (if you get it really, really wrong!) There's a lot to think about. A lot of moving parts. Not all goods are legal in all countries. Different shipping routes have different costs (and risks!) Duties, taxes, demurrage, fuel surcharges, brokerage fees, terminal handling charges and other potential costs have to be calculated (this alone can be pretty complex!) Timescales, shipment sizes, locations and routes all need to be considered. I could go on...

The point is, freight isn't easy. And I couldn't do it alone. But I don't have

to. I'm lucky to have a crack team of freight geniuses behind me. Connor, Ali, Nikki, Keith, Keeley, Janet and Debi all work hard day after day to take care of all the business behind the scenes. Keeping the cogs turning, and your goods moving around the world without a hiccup.

It's these guys that are the unsung heroes. The men (and woman!) on the front line negotiating the best rates on your behalf, tracking your shipments and keeping your paperwork in tip-top

shape. So I want to take a moment to give them their dues, but also to ask you a question...

Do you have a team of superstars supporting you? As a business owner, it's easy to slip into the idea that you have to "do it all" – but that's a huge mistake that will hinder your progress, increase your stress and throttle your growth. So do you have the people you need to help you succeed? If not, who do you need and how can you get them?



SICK of hitting your current logistics partner over the head for rates, vessel space, validities...?

Contact the
FREIGHT GEEKS
at Millennium Cargo for a
FREE FREIGHT AUDIT
0121 311 0550
quotes@millenniumcargo.com



Did You Know...

Freight can be a little frustrating. There's lots to learn, even more to think about and almost a whole dictionary full of "freight-lingo" you need to learn.

The good news is that we're here to help! The **Knowledge Base** on our website is jam-packed with blogs that answer every question you've ever had about freight forwarding.

Check it out today
www.millenniumcargo.com/news

Another Happy Customer

“Thanks so much To Ali Askar and Saul Camacho for successfully handling a shipment of a classic 1979 Ford Escort RS 2000 from the UK over to Canada. Full packing and shipping all successfully coordinated and we wish the importer in Canada many more happy years of driving this beautiful classic car around beautiful Vancouver.”

Thanks folks and I hope you agree what a nice car this is...



Are you willing to gamble with your Freight Forwarding



Contact us for our helpful guide

The complete Import & Export Solution Door To Door in 10 Easy Steps

We offer expert help and advice at every stage of the shipping process, we will always go that extra mile to look after you and your goods.

CALL OUR FREIGHT GEEKS ON:-

0121 311 0550
info@millenniumcargo.com



Millennium Cargo

FUN FACTS

The word “logistics” comes from a 19th-century French word, “logistique.” This French word was originally exclusively associated with the transportation of soldiers and military supplies until it was later adopted for civilian applications.



JOKE

Why did the shipping container break up with the freight train?

It couldn't handle the long distance relationship.



A Container Case For Sherlock Holmes

This is one of our favourite social media posts in case you missed it!

I've been in freight for over 30 years and I've never seen this happen before.

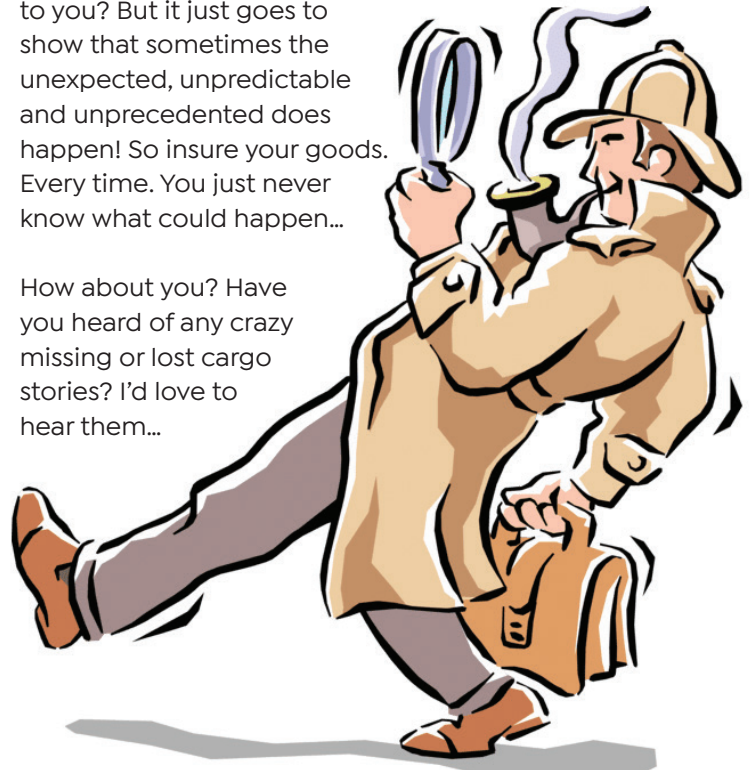
We move a lot of cargo, as you can imagine. And when you scale things to this kind of level, sometimes crazy stuff happens that you'd never expect. Now, as you know, at Millennium Cargo, we make it our mission to make sure your goods get to where they need to go. We're the pros when it comes to planning freight routes, advising on packaging, rules and regulations and customs charges. All the things that you need to get right if you want smooth sailing for your cargo. That said, when you're dealing with the oceans, you can't guarantee safe passage. It's very rare but sometimes something happens that means your cargo is lost. Pirate attacks, hurricanes, container fires... you get the gist? That's why we always advise all our customers to get cargo insurance every single time. I mean, just look at the recent Baltimore Bridge incident? The cargo on that ship will likely never make it to its end destination. It's super rare, but lost, stolen or damaged containers do happen.

Do you know what I've never seen happen until now? An empty container... Picture this. You package up your goods, in this case a container full of mattresses, and send them on their merry way across the ocean. Weeks go by and all seems well. The ship is tracked, on time and arrives in the port with your container intact. But when you crack that baby open, what do you find? Nothing. Zip. Zilch. Nada. Just an empty container! The cargo was missing. No signs. No clues. So we put on our Sherlock

Holmes hats and got on the case... A little digging and delving later, we discovered what had happened.

The container and its cargo had made it through to customs where they'd removed the mattresses to examine them. All fairly typical stuff... But instead of putting the cargo back in the container once it had been cleared, they accidentally put it in the wrong warehouse bay – the one for cargo that must be destroyed! Poof! Up in flames. Never to be seen again. Crazy, huh? Bet you never thought something like that could happen to you? But it just goes to show that sometimes the unexpected, unpredictable and unprecedented does happen! So insure your goods. Every time. You just never know what could happen...

How about you? Have you heard of any crazy missing or lost cargo stories? I'd love to hear them...



Explore our Multilingual Website



We are excited to share that our website, www.millenniumcargo.com, can now be translated into a variety of languages. Whether you prefer Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese, or any other language, we can make it happen at the push of a button. If you need a specific language, just let us know, and we'll be happy to accommodate your request.

We value your feedback

At Millennium Cargo, we strive to provide the best service possible, and your feedback helps us achieve that. We invite you to share your experience by leaving us a Google review. (please scan the QR code) Your reviews not only help us improve but also assist others in choosing a reliable logistics partner. Thank you for your continued support!





Five minutes with ...

Connor Blunt

strong Brummie accent (like the peaky blinders), which even fellow Brits say is sometimes hard to understand. When on the phone, he used to have to put on a softer, clearer voice and slow down. I am now learning this firsthand.

What do you think sets our company apart from others in the industry?

It has been our mantra for so long, but rightly so is our honesty and integrity. We're not a big faceless forwarder, but a personal "one-stop-shop" for everything freight.

Can you share a memorable or rewarding experience you've had while working at Millennium Cargo?

In my first year in freight, I visited Southampton Port and boarded an actual container ship. This really helped me understand firsthand what we do on a day-to-day basis and just how big the industry is. It always amazes me how many people who have been in this industry for a long time have never seen a vessel up close to really understand its size and what we really do.

Outside of work, what are your hobbies or interests?

Very simple, ASTON VILLA FC – my biggest hobby by a country mile, traveling up and down the country and throughout Europe all year-round supporting the team home and away. I also love spending quality time with friends and family and finally I am a huge combat sports fan. I love watching the UFC and being able to go to a live world title fight last year was a fantastic experience.

What motivates you to perform your best at work every day?

As a young and passionate freight forwarder working in our family business, my motivation to perform at my best every day is deeply rooted in the values of integrity and personal

service that we uphold. Being part of a family business instills a strong sense of responsibility and pride in me. I understand that our family's reputation is directly tied to the quality of service we provide.

What is a valuable lesson you've learned from your time working in this industry?

Attention to detail is KEY, the simplest things can be the most impactful. Duty and Care is number 1 always when dealing with cargo for all our customers and partners.

If you could give one piece of advice to clients or colleagues in the industry, what would it be? Nothing is ever a stupid question in this industry. It is better to check and repeat than be complacent and make mistakes. This industry is always evolving but be excited to tackle the challenge rather than shy away from it.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?

If I could have a superpower, it would undoubtedly be the ability to speak every language fluently. To me, the power of language is unparalleled. It goes beyond mere communication; it's a gateway to understanding different cultures, establishing connections, and bridging gaps between people.

What's your favourite travel destination or dream vacation spot?

It is hard to say one because different destinations offer different experiences and different types of vacations. From a relaxing point of view, I just want to be close to the beach and have plenty of sunshine. From a tourist point of view, a big goal of mine is to visit the 7 wonders of the world.

What is your role at the company, and what do you enjoy most about it?

I'm the Sales & Operations Manager / Network Coordinator. I love leading the team on a day-to-day basis and I really value the opportunity to maintain and grow new partnerships as well as keeping in touch with our customers.

What inspired you to work in the freight forwarding industry?

When I left school at 16, I didn't really know what I wanted to do for a career. I just knew I wanted to be office-based rather than a tradesman. After college, I was offered the amazing opportunity to work for a local family business where I would have mentorship from the Managing Director, aka Chadd (my father), to develop my skills and build a long-term career - too good an opportunity to turn down!

What aspect of your job do you find most challenging, and how do you overcome it?

Working in freight brings lots of challenges—that's part of what makes it interesting! But for me, the language barrier when dealing with my partners and suppliers overseas is the biggest one. When I was young, me and my siblings would make fun of Chadd when he was on calls to his foreign friends and partners, as we always said he had a funny "international voice." Being from Birmingham, we have a

The Chronicle Conundrum!!

Alright all you keen-eyed word puzzlers out there, keep your eyes peeled and get those pens to paper before it slips your mind!



Y N J C I G T E C H N O L O G Y C C P C
 C O N P E R N I R Y C D X T P A W O M H
 N I O G R A C I E C I T I R R V R N T A
 E T I P J L M K P S O S A R V T O T W I
 I A T D P B U J T P N N I P D P J A L N
 C T C Y E E M R V A I E N Q S B U I X G
 I N E R H Y I N R Y R H K N R I O N M Q
 F E P S Z B L T E T K N S F Z F D E R U
 F M S Z U J J S E R I N V E N T O R Y I
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 K C I L H O P T Z P S H A N D L I N G P
 A O B S H C I L E S F M C D E Y U M X O
 N D D E C R O R Y N W R O Q E G F X U R
 N X R M U I I T G A U I E T N X E A U T
 F A N C X S T W G R R G N I S I P R B X
 W R E A H R U S X T V C K N G U E O O B
 M S T A U T P W I V P C P Q A H C U R U
 A W B T E L L A P G A T A M X K T S I T
 J L B M L T O N G R O I A K D W Q E G G
 E L A D O M R E T N I L P E T U O R U I

Return your completed word search to us by **30TH SEPTEMBER 2024** to be in with the chance of winning a **£50 VOUCHER**

- CARGO
- INVENTORY
- CARRIER
- LOGISTICS
- CHAIN
- PACKAGING
- CONTAINER
- PALLET
- CUSTOMS
- PERISHABLE
- DISPATCH
- PORT
- DISTRIBUTION
- ROUTE
- DOCUMENTATION
- SECURITY
- EFFICIENCY
- SHIPPING
- EXPORT
- SUPPLY
- FREIGHT
- TECHNOLOGY
- HANDLING
- TRACKING
- IMPORT
- TRANSIT
- INSPECTION
- TRANSPORT
- INTERMODAL
- WAREHOUSE



The winner of the last Chronicle Word Search

Mr Emanuel Tritaean from Hydroponic Centre, Wolverhampton.

As he was local to Millennium Cargo Head Office, Chadd gave him his £50 winnings in person, for that personal touch!!

Meet Keith Whitrod Our Jack of All Trades and Movie Star!



At Millennium Cargo, we pride ourselves on having a talented and diverse team. Keith Whitrod, our jack of all trades, is not just an essential part of our operations but also a part-time movie star! Keith recently featured in the UK movie "Bermondsey Tales." Be sure to check it out and see our very own star in action.

Visit our website to learn more about Keith and the rest of our amazing team at www.millenniumcargo.com.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT US ... call +44 (0) 121 311 0550
 email info@millenniumcargo.co.uk or visit www.millenniumcargo.com



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