

THE CARGO CHRONICLE

January 2024

CARGO, CONTAINERS & CRAZINESS

Are you
ready
to launch
into 2024?



A Word From Chadd...

It's been a while...

Five years to be more precise.

A lot has happened since the last issue of The Cargo Chronicle landed on your doorstep. Here at Millennium, we've been busy behind the scenes. We've moved offices, launched a new website, rebranded, added new services and even welcomed some new staff to the team.

After a couple of years of being "grounded" by the pandemic, I've been excited to spread my wings and start attending some overseas networks again, visiting China, Hong Kong, Bali to name a few destinations over the past few months. It's been a real pleasure to see some familiar faces and meet some new ones too.

We might have taken a small sabbatical from the Cargo

Chronicle, but if you're on my email list you'll know that I've kept bringing a little light entertainment into the world of freight with my weekly blog post - I hope you've been enjoying my tales of business building and cargo craziness from around the world?

But that's not all! As you know, we're on a mission to make moving goods around the world easy and hassle-free. And a big part of that is understanding how things really work. That's why in 2022 we launched our Knowledge Base blog. It's packed full of articles that demystify the world of freight and help you to avoid the common pitfalls and disasters.

As we move into 2024 and start the new year, we've got some exciting plans in the pipeline too. We're dedicated to growing, improving and helping more people.

So what do you have planned for the next 12 months? Come find me on LinkedIn or drop me an email on chadd@millenniumcargo.com and let me know...

What Do You Really Want?

Digital Transformation is a bit of a buzzword in the freight industry right now. Freight forwarders all over the world are revamping their offerings, upgrading their tech and trying to provide their clients with a more digital and connected experience. But most of this is going on in the background. Behind the scenes.

Here at Millennium, we might have been in the industry for many decades, but we're not dinosaurs when it comes to innovation and development. We understand as well as the next guy just how important digital transformation is as we all dive head first into a more technological world. AI, robots, drones... who knows what's coming in the next 10-20 years right?

Now is the time to start changing. To keep up with the trends (or get ahead of them even!) because there will come a pivotal point in the near future where those who have dragged their heels get left behind. I don't want to

be that guy, so Millennium has been making changes and implementing digital improvements over the past year.

But if you think about it, Digital Transformation is really all about customer experience. How you, as our client, can interact with us, your order and your cargo, and what your overall experience is of moving goods around the world. The usual ideas include visibility, traceability, online documentation, online quotes... but I wanted to get your take on it all.

You're the customer. The end user. The one whose experience we need to improve and digitise. So what do you want from digital transformation? What can we do to make your lives easier, more connected or more traceable as you ship your cargo?

I'd love to hear your ideas, so fire me an email over at chadd@millenniumcargo.com and let's shape the future of your freight experience together.



CHADD'S TRAVELS

Father & Son team Chadd Blunt and Connor Blunt representing Millennium Cargo Services Limited UK at last years Atlas Logistics Network conference Bali 2023.

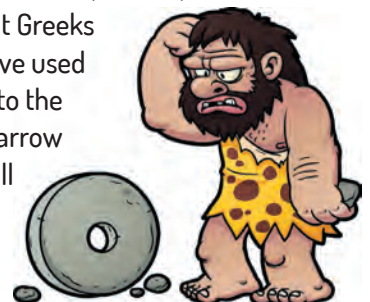


FUN FACTS!

How many people do you think work in the UK work in logistics?

**2.56 million people
that's 2.5 Million Logisticians ...**

AN ANCIENT INDUSTRY - When you think about it, logistics is possibly one of the earliest industries in the world. The need to move things around dates back to the earliest days of civilisation. The first records of a cart with wheels stretch back to 3,500 BC, while the ancient Greeks are known to have used something akin to the modern wheelbarrow for transport – all predecessors to today's industry.



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

Cargo Craziness

Insane Stories From Freight Around The World

Rotten Cabbages

What would you do with 360 tonnes of rotten cabbages?

It's a tough question. Probably one you've never thought of before. But someone had to come up with an answer...

It's been nearly two years since the Ever Given blocked the Suez Canal, causing havoc and creating a freight backlog all around the world, with more than 360 ships queuing to use the canal by day 5.

After 6 long days and some creative problem-solving, the vessel was unstuck and ready to continue its journey... but the Egyptian government impounded it after an insurance dispute. It took another 4 months for the dispute to be battled out by the lawyers and on 7th July 2021, the Ever Given set sail again on her journey home.

Now, I don't doubt you've heard this story before. You'd have had to be living under a rock to miss it. But there's one side of the story that wasn't really talked about all that much...the actual cargo.

What happened to the cargo that was on board the Ever Given? Well, that's where we come back to rotten cabbages. Some of the \$775m worth of cargo on board the ship will have made its way to its destination, some will have been abandoned and some will have been perishable and will have needed to be destroyed... Like the cabbages.

But there are companies out there who deal with this very situation. Cargo salvage companies. It's not actually that uncommon for cargo to get abandoned. Sometimes it's because delays meant the perishable goods went off, sometimes it's because a company goes out of business or the cost of storage is too high so the owner never claims the goods. And sometimes it's because a ship got wedged in the Suez Canal...

What would a salvage company want with 360 tons of rotten cabbages? Well it might surprise you, but they can sell them on. No kidding. Those cabbages from the Ever Given were sold to an anaerobic digestion plant, where they would be turned into fuel! One man's garbage really is another man's gold!

No big lesson here today (well, other than to make sure you always insure your cargo!) Just a bit of insight into what goes on in the world of freight. Have you got any interesting behind the scenes stories from your industry? I'd love to hear them...

FREE Freight Audit from Millennium Cargo

We are that confident in our services we GUARANTEE we can improve the health of your cargo handling.

To arrange an appointment please contact us on:- 0121 311 0550



JOKE!

Why did the truck driver start a band?

He had a ton of delivery "drums."



Meet the Team ... Nikki Chidlow

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

- » Import/export co-ordinator. I enjoy seeing the process from start to finish.

What inspired or led you to work in the freight forwarding industry?

- » I was working part time for a company that booked events and conferences, the company next door then offered me a part time job, just filing. I took an interest in what the company did and the rest is history

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

- » The aspect I find most challenging is accepting that not everyone does things as I do!

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

- » Millennium Cargo cares about people, not just in a work capacity but on a personal level.

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

- » Receiving nice and positive feedback and comments from customers and suppliers alike, it is nice to be appreciated from time to time.

Outside of work, what are your hobbies or interests?

- » Spending time with family and friends, socialising. Football is a big part of my family life, I enjoy watching live football or on the tv. My son has played since he was 5 and is still playing 11 years later!!

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

- » My motivation is my family, doing good at work means we get rewarded, which in turn means I can treat my family.



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

- » Never assume..... It makes an ass out of you and me!!

How do you stay updated and informed about the latest trends or developments in freight forwarding?

- » Honestly, I wait to be told or sometimes via emails or other colleagues in the industry talking about these subjects.

If you could give one piece of advice to clients or colleagues in the industry, what would it be?

- » Check, check and check again.

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

- » I am a chronic overthinker, so if going with the flow was a superpower it would be that.

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

- » I have only been to a few places in my life (Spain/ Greece/Egypt) current favourite destination would be Greece..... Ask me again at the end of January! Dream vacation spot..... Australia.



Customer Survey Feedback & Integrity

As part of our ISO9001 accreditation we like to keep a close eye on our KPI's. You'll be pleased to know that we exceeded our yearly KPI's. Our attention has been focused on 'timely delivery', 'timely quotations', 'timely turnaround of bookings' and 'correct documentation,' To ensure we meet these targets time and time again a number of measures and procedures have now been put in place. However, if you'd like us to focus on something else that's important to you then please get in touch.

JOKE!

Why did the forklift join a Gym?

It wanted to lift weights!!



Bet You've Never Even Heard of Her...

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

Ever heard of Lillie Elizabeth Drennan? Probably not. What about Luella Bates? Gladys West?

As you know, I'm a big footie fan. I go watch my team, Aston Villa, at every opportunity and I love to enjoy a nice cold beer down the pub while watching a match. Over the past few weeks, people all over the world have been enthralled by the Women's World Cup.

And I love it. It's so great to see more people giving the Women's World Cup the attention it deserves. But Gladys, Luella and Lillie aren't footballers... They're women who throughout history have contributed to freight.

Lillie Elizabeth Drennan was the first woman in the USA to own a trucking firm back in 1928. She was also the first woman in Texas to hold a commercial driver's license. Luella Bates is thought to be the first woman to be a licensed truck driver. She was hired as a test and demonstration driver for the Four Wheel Drive Auto Co.

And Gladys... well the world of freight wouldn't be what it is today without her.

As a mathematician, she worked on the development of satellite geodesy models that were then incorporated into

the Global Positioning System. That's right. Gladys's work helped to bring you the GPS that the world of logistics relies so heavily on today.

Did you know that in the EU the workforce in logistics is still around 70% men? This is an 8% decrease since 2018 so we're moving in the right direction, but that's still a heavily male-dominated industry. But perhaps not for long! In fact, I've already started to see shifts with women-led networks popping up and more women joining the industry.

Do you think we'll end up with a more balanced workforce? Could it be that more women are catching on to how awesome it is to work in freight? I hope so... It really is a wonderful way to work.



Did you know.... Millennium Cargo is like GPS for your goods!

*We navigate your cargo through
the twists and turns of the supply chain
so you can stay on the right track.*



Find your logistics coordinates at
www.millenniumcargo.com
and let's keep your business
on the road to success!

0121 311 0550

info@millenniumcargo.com



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Cargo**



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**All you need to do is email us at
info@millenniumcargo.com**

We look forward to receiving your referrals
and popping a voucher in the post to you
as soon as your referrals place their first order.

Happy Referring!

CASE STUDY | *Classic Range Rover*

For most classic car owners, importing or exporting their beloved vehicle can be a little nerve-racking. I mean, it's a one-of-a-kind, irreplaceable item that they've grown to love. That's why it's important to choose a freight forwarder you can trust.

We're not newbies when it comes to moving classic cars. Over the past 28 years we've moved many a vehicle safely from one country to another. Like this Classic Range Rover, successfully handled by Nikki Chidlow, who lashed, loaded and secured for onward shipment to Singapore.

Special thanks also to our dear friends and colleagues in Rotterdam at World Freight Logics, for helping us co-ordinate this shipment.



Why not Join our
Birthday Club
and receive a
fantastic surprise on the day!

SEND US YOUR DETAILS :-

Name | Email Address | Mobile Number
Day and Month of Birth | Star Sign

And we will send you a surprise from
Millennium Cargo to help you celebrate your big day!

Email your details to our Birthday Department
yes, we have a birthday department !!!
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Don't be a **FREIGHT DINOSAUR**
and keep using
the same old tired, tried
and tested freight company.

Why not try **MILLENNIUM CARGO**,
a new vibrant
kind of logistics partner...



**Millennium
Cargo**



Millennium Cargo Insurance Are Your Goods At Risk?

As freight forwarders, we do all we can to keep your goods safe as they make their journey around the world. But if the past 5 years have taught us anything, it's to expect the unexpected.

**Container fires? | Pirates? | Hurricanes?
Container ship wedged in the Suez Canal?**

Cargo insurance covers 100% of the value of your goods, plus your shipping costs, should the worst happen while your cargo is in transit.


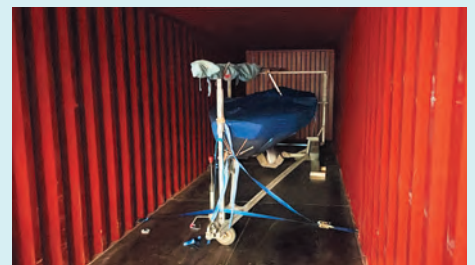
Speak to us today on +44(0) 121 311 0550 to get a quote.

*You'll be pleasantly surprised at just how affordable
complete peace of mind really is...*

Another Happy Customer

Thanks so much to Nikki Chidlow and Raul Lopez Marrero for successfully handling shipment of this small boat from the UK to the Canaries Island of Tenerife.

Full packing and shipping all successfully co-ordinated and we wish the importer many years of happy sailing.



When living abroad we all miss our home comforts, a bottle of HP sauce, Heinz Baked Beans, PG Tips etc.

beans
meanz...

Well now you don't have to.
We can ship your British goodies to you, wherever in the world you may be!



**Millennium
Cargo**

0121 311 0550

*You don't need
to miss your home comforts anymore
thanks to the team at Millennium!*

The Chronicle Conundrum!!

Yes ... it's back! the Millennium Word Search Competition!

WIN A £50 VOUCHER

Return your completed word search to us by 29TH FEBRUARY 2024 to be in with the chance of winning the £50 prize.

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

Come on all you eagle eyed word searchers out there, keep them peeled and put pen to paper before you forget!!

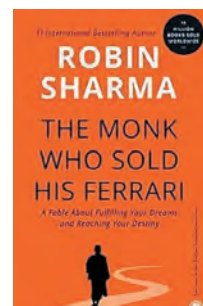
- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 reliable | 17 loading |
| 2 centric | 18 freight |
| 3 chain | 19 efficient |
| 4 vessel | 20 knowledgeable |
| 5 inventory | 21 shipment |
| 6 lorry | 22 supply |
| 7 delivery | 23 dedicated |
| 8 pallet | 24 handling |
| 9 dependable | 25 transit |
| 10 crates | 26 packaging |
| 11 port | 27 freightliner |
| 12 forwarder | 28 trustworthy |
| 13 dispatch | 29 responsive |
| 14 professional | 30 consignment |
| 15 customer | 31 transparent |
| 16 route | |

Chad's Suggestions to watch and read

Watch on Youtube



Read and digest at your leisure



Don't be shy... Now that our new newsletter is out and you have read it - tell us what you think! Feel free to share our newsletter with friends, loved ones and colleagues, if you need any further copies just ask.