

Mikael Carlson, the official pilot of the Bleriot XI



Mikael Carlson, the official pilot of the Bleriot XI for the 100th Crossing Channel Anniversary festivities, brought a treasure of engineering history to the “greatest infrastructure success of the 20th century” that is Eurotunnel.

The 50 year-old Swedish aviator decided to use Eurotunnel to bring his famous aircraft to Les Barraques near Calais, from where Louis Bleriot took off on July 25th 1909 to reach English coasts 37 minutes later.

Choosing Eurotunnel over the ferries to reach France for the event was an easy choice for Mikael. *“I took Eurotunnel once and I liked it, it was fast and easy”* he says. On Friday July 24th in the afternoon, the plane was packed up in his unmarked trailer, ready to cross the Channel from Folkestone to Calais in an ET shuttle.

The aviator was expecting to take off on Saturday 25 July in the early evening but the authorities decided to cancel his flight in the very last minute because of strong wind. Mikael puts safety first when it comes to flying, however, no one could help but be disappointed with this decision. Such a shame, the weather was so sunny that day. On the early Sunday morning, Mikael was able to finally achieve his goal and cross the Channel in 33 minutes!

After the show, the aircraft was displayed in Selfridges store in Oxford Street in London for a week before taking Eurotunnel back to the Continent to eventually reach Sweden.

Beaujolais Run made it big this year



This year again the Beaujolais Run decided to use Eurotunnel to cross the Channel and celebrate the release of “le Beaujolais Nouveau” in Mâcon.

In the morning of November 17th, 33 beautiful Jaguars, Porsches and even Aston Martins were welcomed by ET staff in the PTB car park where they were much admired by passengers and the journalists who had been specially invited to take pictures of these fabulous vehicles.

This year's event celebrated the centenary of the birth of Albert R “Cubby” Broccoli, producer of the iconic James Bond films and the VIP guest for this occasion was local actress Tania Mallet, who played Tilly Masterson, in Goldfinger (1964) and was there to wave good-bye to the 33 participants.

Staff from several divisions of the company and from both countries, worked together and contributed to the success of that very special day.

“From the Folkestone Check-In to our arrival in Calais, the Eurotunnel experience was very smooth and enjoyable”, says Rob Bellinger, organiser of the Beaujolais Run.

This eventful day was also the occasion for Ginetta, the Burlington-Beaujolais Run and Eurotunnel to collaborate and produce an historic and exceptional world first. John Surtees, former 500cc Motorcycle and Formula One World Champion, drove the Ginetta G50 EV electric sports car through the service Tunnel. He was greeted in France by Jacques Gounon and members of the international press.

Asked what the experience of driving through a 31-mile long tunnel was like, John said: *“You certainly wouldn't want to be subject to any claustrophobic feelings down there. The tunnel is very small in parts but its amazing what a tremendous engineering feat it is. Its quite staggering. The important thing however, is all the money its raised for charity. The stunt also formed part of the 37th annual Burlington Beaujolais Run, which has raised £400,000 so far this year for the Richard Burns Foundation, set up in memory of its namesake rally driver who died of cancer, as wellas children's cancer charity CLIC Sargent.”*

Stunning scenery in Samphire Hoe



The snow has been covering the all of Europe for the past three weeks and all the headlines related to it have been relatively negative. Not only could you read or hear about the weather damaging transport and hospitality businesses but also about it causing accidents, and a rush on essential supplies leaving the shops empty. Everyone was so concerned about where they were walking that we forgot to look up and take a moment to look at the beautiful scenery made magical by the snow. One of the best places in Kent to enjoy a gorgeous landscape has been our own Samphire Hoe.

Because visitors are asked to stay on the paths the only footprints that could spoil the appearance of the white cover were the 6 cows and 41 sheep.

The cows are now back on their farms being looked after once again by the farmers.

If you stop by the Hoe today you will be most likely to see green woodpeckers, meadow pipits, stonechats and “if you are lucky” adds a ranger “you may even see a peregrine falcon”.

Eurotunnel among the top 5 brands committed to CO2 reduction



According to an article published by the Guardian on Tuesday 1 December Eurotunnel’s commitment to reduce its carbon foot print by 20% per year places the company among the top five brands in terms of CO2 reduction commitment.

The Guardian refers to a analysis completed by the University of Edinburgh. Research shows that out of the 634 brands studied, Eurotunnel “*has one of the strongest targets for 2010, which places it within the top five brands, alongside Tesco and the Guardian itself.*”

While the most common target is between 1 and 2% a year, Eurotunnel is leading the way with a 20% commitment and, in fact, reduced its Greenhouse gas emissions by 45% over two years from 2006 to 2008.

The researchers used publicly available information for the survey and the data revealed that only one in five brands demonstrated a reduction in emissions and had ambitious targets in line with UK goals.

Sadly, the survey revealed that two-thirds of the UK's biggest brands are either increasing their greenhouse gas emissions, have targets that are weaker than the government's Copenhagen goal for carbon cuts, or are failing to put information about their carbon emissions in the public domain.

This year again Cadbury celebrated Easter at Eurotunnel



A crème egg car and a bunny were in the Passenger Terminal Building in Folkestone on April 1st and 2nd.

While parents were checking out the fun vehicle, children were enjoying the white man size Easter Bunny presence that spent those 2 days, offering them Cadbury mini-eggs and posing for pictures.

Cadbury commercial animation was great entertainment for families going to France to spend the holidays. We hope to see you again next year Easter Bunny!