

Memories

My vintage life



You can dance, you can jive, having the time of your life at new Abba Museum

DESPITE splitting up over 35 years ago (although as band member Benny Andersson once said, they never officially broke up, just went off for a break and never came back), ABBA and their music still continues to delight across the globe for listeners old and new.

I for one will always be the first on the dance floor if one of their songs comes on and love nothing more than a sing along to Take a Chance or Fernando – and yes in my head I sound just like Agnetha Fältskog obviously. Now a new exhibition, ABBA: Super Trouper has opened (just steps away from Waterloo) at the Southbank Centre in association with ABBA

The Museum which is sure to have fans grabbing for their platform boots and digging out old albums once again.

Opened by Björn Ulvæus just before Christmas, the exhibition includes items from the band's archive which are on show in the UK for the first time. Original instruments, handwritten lyrics and costumes can all be seen. As can rooms that were important in the band's history which have also been recreated. These include the Brighton Grand Hotel room where they stayed during the 1974 Eurovision contest which they won, their private plane and their recording studio in Stockholm where you get the chance to have a sing along yourself.

You are led through the nine rooms by a personal guide and Jarvis Cocker provides the narration.

The hour long exhibition is a must for fans of the Swedish pop sensation. We have Abba to thank for the music, but the Southbank Centre to thank for a super day out.

How sale of mini skips of almost 40 years of

IT'S not often a chance conversation with a neighbour can change the course of your life.

But that's exactly what happened to Terry Slade back in 1981, when a chat about the sale of ten mini skips sparked a business idea.

Almost four decades later he and his family are looking back at how it all started.

Terry says: "My neighbour Des had received a brochure about these skips, plus a unit that helps you lift them onto the back of a transit van. At that time, I was driving long distance, doing one

By LAUREN OLDERSHAW

week on and one week off. "I thought I could buy these skips and hire them out while I was away, then collect them on my week off."

He wasn't to know it then, but that gem of an idea was to prove more successful than he could have ever imagined.

More than 35 years later, Terry's business CSH Environmental operates the largest recycling facility in East Anglia, employing 90 people and handling more than 50,000 tonnes of waste every year.

What's more, the firm's constantly evolving methods mean that 99.86 per cent of waste collected is now diverted from landfill.

The grandfather-of-three explains: "I had no idea how big the business would become in the early days.

"My late wife Patricia was certainly very doubtful. She went mad when I ordered an extra ten mini skips while she was at work one day - she thought I'd thrown away our savings."

Far from it. Just a few months after that fateful conversation with Des, Terry had quit his driving job and was focusing on his new enterprise, Colchester Mini Skips.

Indeed, so successful was the business that he didn't have a day off in seven years, and Patricia gave up her job as a

dinner lady to join her husband at work.

"Our office was half of the dining table at home," said Terry.

"Pat used to do the invoices on a sticky old typewriter, and all the money we made went back into the business. I've always been very careful with finances, and have never spent money I hadn't earned first."

By the late 1980s, business was booming. Colchester Mini Skips

Pat used to do the invoices on a sticky old typewriter, and all the money we made went back into the business.

had expanded with the purchase of a similar firm and had changed its name to Colchester Skip Hire.

It became a family operation when Terry's then 18-year-old son Mark joined the company as a driver.

Terry's daughter Caron also worked at the firm from time to time in an administrative role.

But business was set to skyrocket even further during the building of the Culver Square Shopping Centre in Colchester.

"We were awarded the waste management contract for the

building.

"It was our first big contract and really set us on our way.

"That was when we bought four big lorries and our own premises at Old Packards Lane in Wormingford.

"Before then, we'd had to store our stuff in several places including Stanway Rovers Football Club!"

Mark adds: "We've had some other brilliant contracts over the years, including Colchester Police Station and the Garrison, which was the largest building project in the country at the time."



Expansion - the fleet grows in 1985



Dad - Terry with one of the vehicles, also in 1988



Family - Mark, Patricia, Caron and Terry Slade pictured in 2002



Vehicles - Mark pictured with one of the vehicles in 1988.

Memories

was start history

It wasn't long before Terry had to adapt his business to the changing landscape of waste management.

"The local councils started to charge for the weight of waste rather than the size of the skips, as they had done previously," he explains.

"We realised that the industry was turning more towards recycling, so we obtained one of the first waste transfer licences for recycling from Trading Standards.

"We extended our workshop to create a picking line and install a trommel system, which separates waste to eliminate the smallest elements."

Over the years which have followed, Colchester Skip Hire has revolutionised its operations to put recycling at the forefront of its business; so much so that its name was changed to CSH Environmental in 2013.

New buildings have been added to the Wormingford site to include a 65,000 square foot materials recovery facility, where 16 pickers sort through tonnes of rubbish to separate paper from plastic, cardboard from plasterboard and more.

"The expansion of our premises was a game changer and turned us into an environmental business," said Mark.

"We now have 32 different products in our sorting system, and export waste to places like Vietnam, Malaysia and Belgium where they become recyclable items."

So impressive are the firm's operations Dubai company Visionscape called upon the team to advise them on a project taking place in Lagos, Nigeria.

Terry adds: "We're applying for planning permission for a new 20,000 square foot facility, which will enable us to process plastic recycling even more efficiently."

"It's fantastic to see how far we have come since we started with one van and ten skips. I think Pat will be smiling down on us to see where we are now."

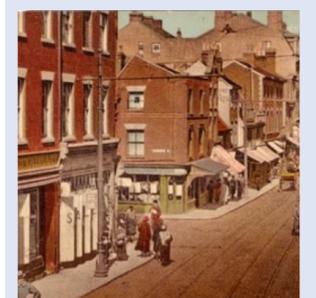
For more information about CSH Environmental, visit www.cshenvironmental.co.uk

Get in touch with memories of your company's history on 01206 508186.



Office - Mark is seen here at the CSH headquarters in more than twenty years ago in 1995

What's in a road name?



Turning - postcard showing Osborne Street on the left

Legacy of town's well known brewer lives on in its street name

Osborne Street Colchester

AS with many road names across Colchester, Osborne Street takes its name from an influential family.

The story goes in 1799 the group, led by John Bawtree, realised the soldiers who had been gathered in the town, due to the fear of a French invasion, might just be thirsty

They put up the money to build by far the largest brewery Colchester had ever seen, on the junction of what is now Osborne Street and St Botolph's Street.

It was huge and produced the popular tippel of the time - London Porter beer, making it one of the first outside the capital to do so.

With additions the building survived until 1944, when it was destroyed in the great incendiary bombing of February 23.

Bawtree, who was primarily a banker, put in one of the rising entrepreneurs of Colchester, John Posford Osborne, to run his brewery.

Eventually, Osborne bought Bawtree out and what was originally called Bawtree's Brewery became Osborne's Brewery.

One of Osborne's long-term gestures was to use the property boundary of the brewery to drive what became Osborne Street through to St John's Street to provide a convenient short cut for horse drawn traffic coming up Magdalen Street from the Hythe.

Osborne was soon on the town council and a growing force in the town, involved in a host of projects.

Behind the brewery, he built a street of houses and named it after his eldest son, Forster Street before changing it to Arthur Street in honour of his younger son following a falling out.

Arthur Thomas Osborne found himself in charge of a range of businesses, including another brewery on East Hill.

In 1888, following his marriage, he built himself a big house on the western outskirts of Colchester and called "Altnacealgach" after the house in Wales, where he had spent his honeymoon.

The house has recently been sympathetically redeveloped.



Fiesta - Mark (second left) and Terry (far right) representing Colchester Mini Skips at the Colchester Carnival in 1981