



Plant & Hire
Aid Alliance

Let's Give Ukrainian Children Another Christmas This Year



Getting Involved:



SOURCE GIFTS

Collect toys and gifts both old and new and wrap them in Christmas paper. Use a removable label to show what the gift is, whether it is for boys or girls and the age range



SEND THEM TO OUR COLLECTION POINT

Our address is: Ardent Hire Solutions, 289 Felixstowe Rd, Ipswich, IP3 9BS. Please ensure your gifts arrive with us before 5th December.



ARTIC LOADER DEPARTS WITH PRESENTS ON 12TH DECEMBER

A fully loaded artic loader will depart from Ipswich on 9th December to Kosice, Eastern Slovakia. From here the presents will be distributed across Ukraine with the support of Rotary International and local volunteers.



Childrens Christmas Appeal

Children are the innocent victims in this horrendous war. Families continue to be split up, with many being killed, including children. Homes and livelihoods have been destroyed and millions of families face an uncertain future.

We want to try and bring a little bit of joy into children's lives this Christmas. **Last year we managed to collect, wrap and send 30,000 presents to the children of Ukraine.** Through the generosity of local communities, partners, suppliers, customers, families and friends, we are hoping to collect enough toys and gifts to give Ukrainian children another Christmas this year.

E: hello@aid-alliance.com

www.aid-alliance.com

Facebook: [@tpandhaidalliance](https://www.facebook.com/tpandhaidalliance)

Instagram: [@tpandhaidalliance](https://www.instagram.com/tpandhaidalliance)

Linkedin: [@the-plant-and-hire-aid-alliance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-plant-and-hire-aid-alliance)

READERS LETTERS

PIET H. SAAN 1927-2023

We recently received the news - very belatedly - of the death of Dutch crane pioneer Piet Saan. He passed away at home on February 4th surrounded by his family, following a short illness he was 95. He leaves behind his wife of 68 years Willy and sons Joop and Piet. His brother Cor passed away in 2013.

Saan was born in Diemen, where the crane and transport company that bears his family name is still based. He was the eldest grandson of Petrus Hendricus Saan who started a one-man parcel delivery business in 1897. His father - also Piet - took the company into the crane market in 1934 when he built a small recovery type crane for a canal sheet piling contract. He purchased an aging Hispano Suiza car, removed the back end bodywork and replaced it with a short boom and hoist.

Piet junior, along with his brother Cor and sister Miép, literally grew up in the business. Piet formally joined the business in 1942 at the age of 15 and in 1972, the two brothers officially took over from their father. Each brother took care of their specific areas of interest, Piet was largely responsible for purchasing and operations, while Cor handled the sales.

Unlike some second or third generation companies, Saan remained a very cordial and familial company with employees almost becoming part of the family. Their children also



Piet Saan



Saan's first 'crane' on a Hispano Suiza chassis



Piet and Cor Saan in 1937



Cor and Piet Saan in retirement preserving the history

found their place within the company. Employees still refer to the brothers as Uncle Piet and Uncle Cor. In 1991 a fourth generation of the family took over, with Piet's youngest son Joop appointed general manager.

Piet Saan was an optimist and considered himself blessed, always thankful that he was in good health, had a good life, a beloved wife, and sons Piet and Joop that he was proud of, along with grandchildren and great grandchildren. His secret was that he seemed to love people and enjoy their company. When he was active in the business he loved industry gatherings - open days, exhibitions and other events - always a character he was quick to laugh and enjoy a joke.

He retired from the business more than 30 years ago and yet remained active, taking a keen interest in the business and playing his part in the local community. In spite of being out of the industry for so long there will be many who remember him fondly.



Piet Saan

DARYL GLEN GASKINS 1970 - 2023

We have received the sad news that US/International rental executive Daryl Gaskins died. He passed away on Sunday, September 24th.

Gaskins spent almost his entire career with just two companies, Hertz/Herc Equipment Rentals and United Rentals. He leaves behind his wife, Claire and two daughters, Lillie and Maggie.

He began his career in 1995 when he joined Hertz, graduating to branch manager in 2001 and regional manager operations in 2009, moving to Dubai in 2014 as general manager of Hertz for the Middle East and North Africa. In 2016 he joined German portable toilet company Adco Holdings/Blu Site Solutions as chief executive of its North American business, leaving for United Rentals in 2020, initially as a district manager, before being promoted



Daryl Gaskins

to regional fleet director in 2021.

Friend and former colleague Norty Turner said: "Daryl was someone who lived without worry. His calm demeanour and easy-going approach defused many tense situations. That calm demeanour should not have been misconstrued as unambitious, because he was incredibly driven and achieved so much. So many people called him for advice and relied on his mentorship."

David Scot of United Rentals added: "Daryl made a lasting impression on all he met. We are grateful for the time we had with him as both friends and colleagues. He will be severely missed. Our deepest condolences to his loved ones during this difficult time."

The family would like to thank all the friends for reaching out with support during this difficult and unexpected time. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate to Horne Memorial United Methodist Church. On line condolences may be made to the family at: www.mclaurinatpinecrest.com

KEVIN MILLER 1959 - 2023

We have only just been able to confirm the sad news that Kevin Miller, a longtime employee of UK crane and general rental company Hewden, has died.

We understand that he passed away on Saturday September 22nd surrounded by his family. He would have been 64 this month. He leaves behind wife Helen.

He was originally a crane operator with Hewden working in the Bristol and Scotland regions, later qualifying as an Appointed Person, before moving into training. In his time, he trained and assessed a great number of crane operators

and APs across the central belt of Scotland. After leaving Hewdens he became a fully qualified training instructor and NVQ assessor and worked with Sarens UK as training manager for a short time leaving last August. Since then, he has worked as a self-employed trainer under the M.T.S banner.

Speaking of his passing one ex-colleague said: "Sad news. Definitely someone who had a positive impact on a lot of people's careers. A big loss."

His funeral was held in Taunton last month.



Kevin Miller

ALAN FREDERICK RUSSON 1956 - 2023

We have received the sad news that UK powered access veteran Alan Russon has died. He passed away at home at the end of last month at the age of 67.

He leaves behind his wife Caroline and two children by previous marriages - daughter Vickie and son Christopher - along with four grandchildren.

Alan Russon began his access career in the late 1970's with a company called Walter Sommers, in Halesowen, which was a Genie dealer at the time. He also worked with Kato Cranes as it was then, selling Economy scissor lifts. Sometime in the mid-1980s he came across Skyjack which was making a big impact on the slab electric scissor lift market and was looking to enter the UK market. He set up the original Russon Access and started selling them.

The tough financial and market downturn of 1990 caused aerial lift sales to plummet, and in particularly RT scissors which were no longer wanted. This put paid to the business, but he moved on and after a brief spell with JLG joined Jim Daintith of Access Platform Sales who took over the Skyjack distribution in the UK.

When the market began to bounce back in the mid 1990s he set up a new company in Brierley Hill in the West Midlands, in partnership with the late Ian Gamble of Gamble Jarvis Plant and was appointed as the exclusive distributor of Skyjack products in the UK. He caught the market perfectly at the start of a period of strong growth and did particularly well with the big Skyjack Rough Terrain scissor lifts with dual deck extensions, as a new wave of industrial building construction got underway. As the company went into the new millennium Skyjack decided to set up its own UK operation in Oswestry, Shropshire.

Never one to be down for long, Alan Russon soon bounced back, taking on the Liftlux heavy duty, big scissor lift range, and achieved what many had thought was impossible, selling the high priced heavy scissor lifts to companies in the highly competitive UK rental market, which had always looked at these machines as being grossly overpriced for their height. Russon was however, very successful in finding applications and interested contractors and then persuading rental companies to add them to their fleets. Then out of the blue in 2004 Liftlux, by now part of Manitowoc's Grove/Manlift division was closed down as the crane company sold its access assets to JLG. Suddenly Russon had no product line and a good number of customer orders which were clearly not going to be fulfilled by Liftlux.

He quickly signed up Holland Lift, becoming its UK distributor, and did well with the new line. Having been hurt by the Liftlux decision, he looked to diversify his offerings away from a single product line, agreeing distribution deals with Matilsa and then Manitou becoming its UK rental company dealer. He did very well with its boom lifts. In 2008 he was appointed as the UK dealer for Iteco scissor lifts, which did not go as well. As the sales of Holland Lift platforms increased and more working capital was required, he persuaded the manufacturer to take a 40 percent stake in the business.

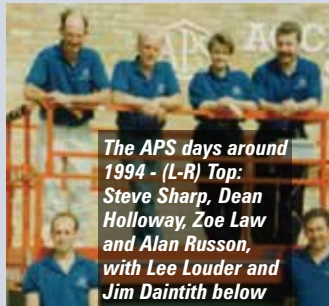
In 2008 the financial crisis arrived, and Manitou ended its contract. Russon began to dabble in the low level access market with a drill operated Power Scissor, and in 2012 Holland Lift, pulled out and appointed AJ Access as its new distributor, effectively closing Russon Access Platform Sales.

Russon was soon back in business, working with German heavy duty scissor lift manufacturer PB in a deal where he sold its machines for a commission and handled the installation, service and product support as a dealer. He also stepped up his low level platform sales and introduced his own range of spring assisted manually extended steps and platforms - the Skywinder and the Quickstep. He also began working with American scissor lift sales company GMG. The new business had some success, but as time passed and the market became more competitive, he decided call it a day and focus on his love of football with his lifelong team of Wolverhampton Wanderers, his family and renting out a number of villas he owned in the Canary Islands.

Alan Russon was a larger than life character who never failed to generate an opinion from whomever he met or had dealings with. Whether they loved him or hated him, they almost certainly noticed him, he always made an impression. He was a real character and a proud man of the Black Country, retaining his roots and strong regional accent and turns of



Alan Russon



The APS days around 1994 - (L-R) Top: Steve Sharp, Dean Holloway, Zoe Law and Alan Russon, with Lee Louder and Jim Daintith below



Alan Russon (L) with Menno Koel of Holland Lift

phrase which he sometimes used to great effect.

He was an out and out salesman, who traded on his strong personality and the wealth of relationships he developed over his career. He was driven to ruthlessly maximise an opportunity and set up Russon Access Platforms on nothing more than a handshake with Wolf Haessler the president and founder of Skyjack, without the necessity of a formal partnership agreement.

In 2007 he married Caroline, at a wedding in the Caribbean with several people from the industry attending, followed by a reception back in the UK for those that could not make it. He will be missed and fondly remembered by a great many people in the industry, both in the UK and overseas.

As one who knew him well said: "Alan had a keen eye for a deal and enjoyed a beer and a laugh and his sudden and untimely passing will be mourned by many in the industry."

The industry truly has lost one of its true characters.



Alan and Caroline Russon on their wedding day

A few of the many comments received

Really sad to hear the news - Alan and I shared many good times along our 'parallel' journeys in powered access over many decades. He will be missed by all who knew him, and I cannot imagine we'll see his like again. RIP Alan and Lechyd dda for the memories.

Paul Richards

I just can't believe that Alan is no longer with us. He was a fantastic character, a hard bargainer and so much fun to be with. Alan you will be missed. Sending heartfelt condolences to Caroline and all the family x Pam

Very very sad news. I got to know Alan when he was working with the Liftlux product. A great guy and always a lot of fun.

RIP Alan...

Steve Barnett

Alan was superb salesman, I remember our first meeting when he visited Altrex in the Netherlands. He stayed in Amsterdam and in the hotel bar he asked me to teach him some Dutch words in order to make contact with a girl. I told him the wrong words, so it ended up in a disaster. We always had a good contact after those days. He should have enjoyed a long retirement. Bill

Saddened to hear of the passing of Alan. I fondly remember a visit to the Skyjack factory with Alan back in the day, his hospitality was without equal, he was just a great guy to spend time with. In terms of business, he was a pleasure to deal with, no matter, small or large, was a problem. The industry has lost a genuinely, 'good man' Sincere condolences to his family. Richard J Harland

So sad. He deserved a long happy retirement. So sad. Malcolm Bowers

I am sat here choked with a tear in my eye as I write this.

I was informed of Alans passing on the morning he died and simply cannot believe he's gone. We first worked together on the Genie aluminium products in the late 70's when he worked for Walter Sommers. A friendship that has lasted 45 years.

I worked direct for him at Russon Access Platforms 2 in Brierley Hill on the Skyjack product alongside Ian Day who was also a lifelong companion and true friend to Alan. We travelled socially together on holidays and on many business trips especially trade shows around the world and the legendary factory visits to Skyjack in Ontario.

I was fortunate to be his best man when he married Caroline in Antigua in 2007.

We have laughed together and cried together. He was simply a superb salesman, and his sense of Black Country humour was infectious. He introduced me to Kranlyft formerly Kato who I joined to promote the Maeda products where he had previously worked selling RT scissor lifts before setting up Russon Access 1.

We lost contact over the past couple of years but I always knew what was happening with him and saddened hearing he was unwell. Joanne and I send our heartfelt condolences to his wife Caroline, daughter Vickie, son Christopher and his twin brother Paul and extended family.

R.I.P my friend I will have a Bacardi and Coke tonight and remember the good times.

Alan Peck

Sad to hear of Alan's passing. Always a pleasure to be in his company. Larger than life and full of enthusiasm. He will be missed by so many

Condolences to his family
Mike Evans