

Shaun Hamilton
Professional Driving
Britannia Lanes



Shaun Hamilton's new career is a far cry from the one he started out on when he left school – and he's loving it!

At the age of 24 he's begun a Professional Driving Apprenticeship with Britannia Lanes in Somerset, a family owned removals, storage and shipping company.

It is a job which is taking him all over the country, to places he has never seen.

"It is hard work but I'm travelling a lot and I love working outside. The work is varied and I'm learning a lot about logistics.

"When the Apprenticeship is over I hope to have a Class 2 lorry driving qualification which will stand me in good stead for years to come."

All of that seems a long way from his original chosen career in Information Computer Technology (ICT).

When Shaun left school with nine GCSEs it was the world of computers that led him to undertake a two year ICT course at Bridgwater College.

After that he began a National Diploma course in the same

subject but decided it was a career not for him.

A spell managing a surfing shop in Weymouth followed and then after a few months unemployed he came across his new career.

"I started working for Britannia Lanes on a casual basis and I just found that the work really suited me. I found it physically hard to begin with – a bit different to computing – but I really enjoy the variety and the travelling. I just could not face sitting behind a desk now."

Shaun said the Apprenticeship was giving him a host of new skills in logistics, safe loading and driving.

"There is a great deal involved in the removals businesses – especially when it comes to exporting – but I am learning fast and enjoying every minute."



Angus Russell

Principal

Britannia Lanes



Britannia Lanes is a family owned and run removals and storage business that knows the importance of a well trained staff.

From its four depots in Bridgwater, Bristol, Exeter and Truro it employs around 100 people but it is keen to drive down the age profile of its workforce – and that is where the Apprenticeship programme fits perfectly.

The company, which handles everything from moving a single box to international shipping, has just recruited two new apprentices at its Bridgwater branch and hopes to take on more in both Devon and Cornwall.

Angus Russell, one of the Principals with Britannia Lanes Somerset, said: "Traditionally drivers have tended to be middle aged people but we need to get younger people interested.

"If you've got a top driving qualification you have skills which are sought after and transferrable. And on top of that the skills which you can learn in this business, dealing with people on a daily basis and problem solving are invaluable.

"We're finding the Apprenticeship programme works for us because we are finding new younger employees who will hopefully be with us for a long time and we are getting important support with their training."

That training is being delivered by Bristol based N-Gaged Logistics Training who are helping the new apprentices through both their practical and theory learning.

Managing Director Simon Arnold said: "Getting younger people interested in driving, through Apprenticeships, is very important. And because we are linked with a network of colleges throughout the South West, whatever their training needs are we can access it."

