

**HAMPSHIRE: Motorist was slumped in seat as car did 50mph on busy road**

# Hero Tony saves life of driver who had fit at wheel

A HAMPSHIRE man is being hailed a hero after saving the life of a motorist who had a fit while driving along a busy dual carriageway.

Thanks to Tony Smith's quick thinking, the driver escaped possible death after Tony used his van to slow the car to safety.

Tony, a workshop manager at Southampton office suppliers Condor, was delivering a photocopier when he noticed a blue Ford Fiesta swerving across the road.

As the Fiesta careered along the central reservation at over 50mph with the driver - a young man in his 20s - out of control, Tony knew he had to do something.

The 36-year-old explained: "The car directly in front was flashing its hazard lights to get my attention and as we got nearer we could see the driver of the Fiesta was slumped over the wheel.

"He was shaking violently, having a fit.

"All of a sudden, the car veered left quickly and ran up on to the verge on the left of the road.

"It must have clipped something on that side of the road, because it then shot right across the dual

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carriageway into the central reservation."

Tony, of Chafen Road, Bitterne, added: "On the left of the road was a number of trees which then gave way to a big embankment.

"As soon as I saw the car hit the central reservation I floored it.

"I undertook the car, positioned my van right in front of it and slowed down until it was touching the back of the van.

"I braked slowly until the car had come to a complete standstill."

Concerned for the driver, Tony dialled 999 then rushed to the Fiesta, which was now badly scraped and dented.

Ambulance crews arrived shortly and rushed the man to nearby Poole General Hospital, where yesterday his condition is said to be non-life threatening.

Travelling in the Vauxhall Movano van with Tony was new recruit Chris Braniff - who had only started his job as a sales executive the previous day.

The 22-year-old, of Peartree Avenue, Bitterne, said: "It was very eerie to watch someone's car



**QUICK-THINKING:** Tony Smith, left, with sales executive, Chris Braniff. Echo picture by Chris Moorhouse. Order no:3746010

get out of control. If the driver had hit a tree or gone down the embankment it could have been a lot worse.

"It was certainly not what I had in mind for my second day of work."

A spokesman for South Central Ambulance Service said: "This member of the public helped prevent the situation escalating into something far more serious and we would commend him for his actions."

Miraculously, the van escaped unscathed in the incident which

happened on the A35 between Poole and Wareham about 11am yesterday.

Tony said: "My boss has been very understanding, and even phoned me this afternoon to congratulate me."

Tony is now being hailed a hero at the office supply company in Lodge Road, Portswood.

He said: "Everyone's been clapping and calling me a hero but I don't see myself as that.

"I didn't really have time to think, I just did what needed to be done."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Traffic signs will cut congestion

A PROJECT to reduce unnecessary traffic in Winchester city centre is to be revamped.

The city council is to spend £100,000 on replacing the message signs that tell drivers about spaces in car parks.

Council bosses believe the signs reduce the numbers of cars circulating though the city centre looking for parking and therefore cuts congestion and pollution. Work is due to start in early 2007 with a completion by March.



### Fashion event

A FASHION show will be held in the clubhouse at Fawcett Field, New Milton, on October 24 at 7pm.

The event will be staged by Travelling Trends.

Tickets are available from New Milton Citizens' Advice Bureau, which will receive all the proceeds.

## LATE AVAILABILITY COACH HOLIDAYS

20 Oct:	Blackpool Illuminations	£149
20 Oct:	Ostend 4 day	£173
20 Oct:	Paris City Break 4 day	£199
20 Oct:	Eden & Lost Gardens 4 day	£193
21 Oct:	Lake Garda and Venice 8 day	£379
22 Oct:	Cadburys World 2 day	£89
22 Oct:	Ostend 2 day	£59
22 Oct:	Blackpool Illuminations 6 day	£269
23 Oct:	Ostend & Brugge 5 day	£229
23 Oct:	Ilfracombe 5 day	£229
23 Oct:	Paris Spectacular 5 day	£365
23 Oct:	North Devon Coast - Ilfracombe 5 day	£229
23 Oct:	Scarborough - Grand Entertainer 5 day	£243
23 Oct:	Warners Norton Grange 5 day	£159
24 Oct:	Llandudno - Holly & Mistletoe 5 day	£259
24 Oct:	Russian Spectacular evening show	£26
27 Oct & 3 Nov:	Blackpool Illuminations 4 day	£189
28 Oct:	Lake Geneva 7 day	£425
30 Oct:	Tenby 5 Turkey & Tinsel	£209
30 Oct:	Paignton T & T 5 day	£159
30 Oct:	Littlecote House Self Drive 5 day	£169
30 Oct:	Bournemouth Self Drive 5 day	£96
03 Nov:	Ostend Turkey & Tinsel 4 day	£129
04 Nov:	Newquay Turkey & Tinsel 4 day	£148
10 Nov:	Black Forest & Alsace 8 day	£319
05 Nov:	Prague 8 day	£359
05 Nov:	Disney Bonfire Spectacular 4 day From	£185
06 & 27:	Blackpool 5 day Turkey & Tinsel	£169
06 Nov:	Torquay Turkey & Tinsel 5 day	£179
10 Nov:	Glastonbury Illuminated Carnival 4 day	£143
13 Nov:	Jersey Turkey & Tinsel 5 day	£209
13 Nov:	Llanberis Turkey & Tinsel 5 day	£219
15 Nov:	The Costa Brava 10 day	£419
17 Nov:	Paris City Break 4 day	£169
18 Nov:	Birmingham International Tattoo 2 day	£99
19 Nov:	Birmingham International Tattoo 1 day	£35

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## Designs on village protection

KINGS Worthy is the latest village near Winchester to receive more protection.

The parish council has finished a village design statement (VDS), which highlights the area's distinctiveness.

The VDS will now be used when councillors deal with planning applications.

Fifteen VDSs have been adopted in the Winchester district: Sparsholt and Upham, 1999; Bramdean, 2000; Crawley, Itchen Abbas, Littleton, Swanmore, Wickham, 2001; Boarhunt, Corhampton

and Meonstoke, Curdrige, Exton, Micheldever, Soberton, West Meon, 2002.

Others are in progress in Compton and Shawford, Denmead and Oliver's Battery. An urban neighbourhood design statement has been adopted for St Giles's Hill. Others are being produced for St Barnabas West and West Fulflood.

## On the streets of Basra

Hampshire troops part of major operation in Iraqi city, see pages 8&9

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