

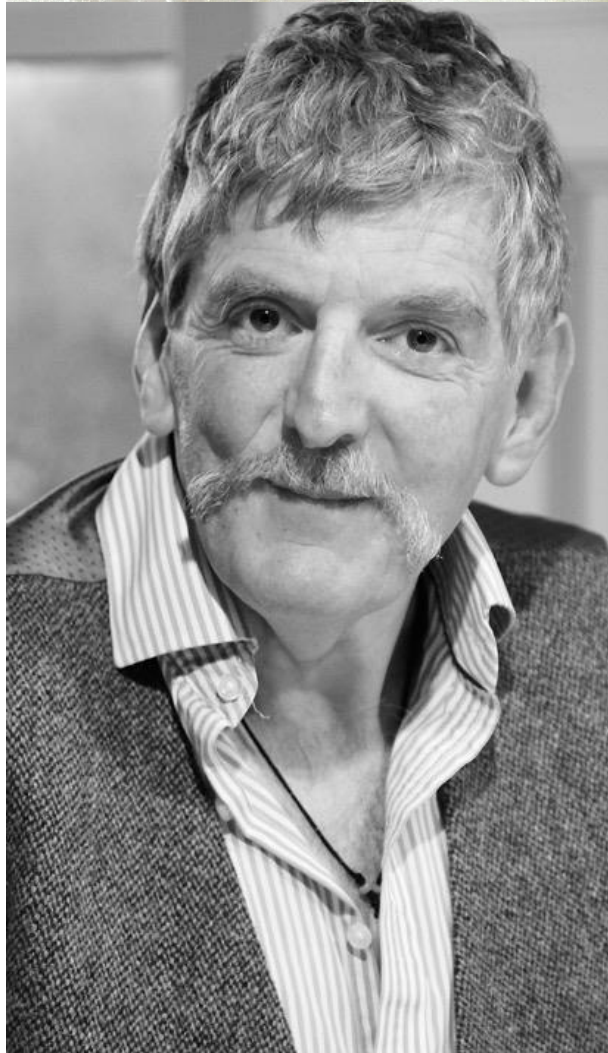
Graeme R Kidd.

Worked with EO	from	March 1981	to	March 1986
Age on joining EO	27			
Nationality	British			
Role at EO	Expedition Leader/Driver			
Expeditions/Brief Encounters etc. led or taken	4 x Trans Africa London/Joburg/Joburg/London 1 x All Africa 24 week, came in at 33 weeks 1 x Sub contract East African Safari to a Belgian tour company 1 x 4week East African Safari 1 x 6week East African Safari 1 x London Nairobi via the Middle East and Nile 1 x 8week Joburg Nairobi Various truck re-locations from East Africa to Joburg and back to East Africa. I thought East Africa was the best place in the world.			
Why did you want to work for EO?	I'd just returned from a contract in Saudi Arabia and was applying for any job in a hot country. There was an advert in the Farmers Weekly looking for Expedition Leader/Drivers. Intrigued, I phoned the number.			
Occupation before joining EO	Working on farms. Dairy farm Manager on a project in Saudi Arabia			
Occupation after leaving EO	Pub Landlord for 5-6 years Exporting Live Shellfish to the continent and far East for 14 years Retired in 2005			
Now living in	Happily Back in Scotland			

Then photo(s)



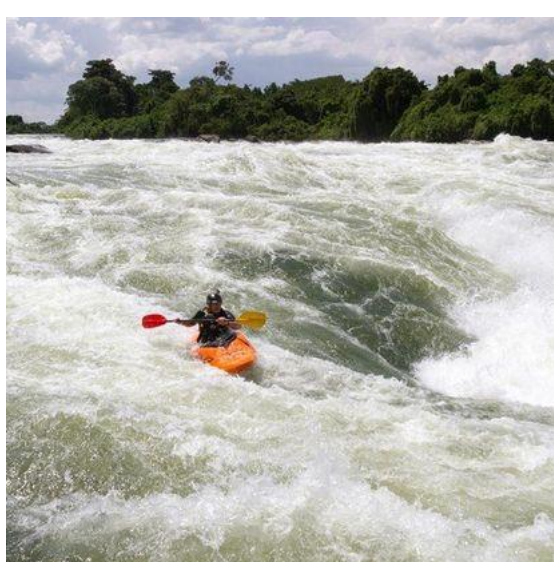
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Memories or anecdotes

Great fun at Wren Park both as a trainee and as a L/D between trips. Walsworth Road, Hitchin was an education.

Meeting other L/D's and hearing their stories over multiple Guinness in the Airman.

The story of an EM who turned into a rabbit on an overland Africa trip! Seriously!! I've met the chap (he became a local in the first pub I had)

I finally got the whole complete story from Jonno Wells (who was the leader of the trip) while at the Nepal reunion in 2016.

Taking seldom travelled routes through the desert from Tamanrasset to the Niger border.

28 days crossing Zaire in the wet season, 8 days crossing Zaire in the dry season.

6 weeks in Kenya (wind surfing on the Kenyan coast, taking the truck and group to the drive-in in Nairobi) trying to obtain Sudanese visas, then finally obtaining them and having to hot foot it back through Uganda, Rwanda, Zaire and Central Africa then north to Umm Dafogg before the visas expired.

Organising the truck to go on a barge from Aswan to Wadi Halfa and the group to take the ferry. Sailing past Abu Simbel with the truck on the barge 6:30 am while the sun was rising over the temple. The truck nearly toppling off the make-shift ramps while driving off the barge.

Being arrested in Yaoundi, Cameroon for being there while the President was having a political rally.

Falling through countless bridges in Central Africa and Zaire, spending days cutting down trees to rebuild them.

Being given the Freedom of Mufulira in northern Zambia on a wee side trip to the deepest copper mine in Africa (the world?) The Mopani Copper mine.

Dozens of nights looking up at the desert skies. Dozens of nights looking up through the jungle canopy.

4 Sundowner's trips on the Zambezi and never yet seeing the banks of the Zambezi! I'm ashamed to say the last trip on the ferry above Vic Falls I was carried off in a wheelbarrow!

Climbing Kilimanjaro 6 times.

Outrageous group meals.

All the fun I had with my groups.

All the times working through the night repairing the truck, and to everyone's amazement hearing the truck start first turn of the key.

The trip to St Catherine's Dock to a medieval banquet organised by EO and included all at Wren Park and Office in London.

All the trainees that were sent to me on the road. Two of the very best, Steve Tester RIP and Ed Donnelly RIP.

I have for years, and will continue to do so, dine out on my stories of life on the road with Encounter Overland and the crazy bunch of misfits that gravitated into Overlanding.

Update...

18 years of retirement so far has suited me well.

I now spend every available moment on the rivers paddling. I kayak between 150 to 200 days a year mostly around Scotland England Ireland Wales and recently Spain. I have been fortunate to have paddled in Uganda on the White Nile, Zambia on the Zambezi and in Nepal on various rivers.

I live in my motorhome 365 only return to my house to check for mail.

Life is good for me. I still have my health and my wit is still sharp.