

# Great granddad gets on the buses again to celebrate big milestone

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A great grandfather has celebrated his 90th birthday where he spent much of his life – on a bus.

Frank Crowe, of Arnold Miller Road in Lakenham, drove coaches and double deckers around Norfolk for more than 40 years.

So when his family were arranging his birthday they couldn't think of a more fitting place to be than at Norwich's classic bus rally yesterday.

About 20 buses spanning from the post-war days of the 1940s to the 1980s were stationed at County Hall in Norwich ready to take a special tour.

From bold red double-deckers to creamy white coaches, Norwich felt like the clock had been turned back as the vintage vehicles wound their way through the city's streets.

Mr Crowe, who will celebrate the nine decade milestone tomorrow, joined Eastern Counties Buses in 1948 as a conductor before getting behind the wheel three years later.

From 1951 until 1990 he drove across the region, delivering passengers to their desired destinations.

It was a job which meant he could be his own boss – and see the beauty of Norfolk's countryside and Norwich's city scape.

"I had moved from London, so at



■ Frank Crowe, former Eastern Counties bus driver, enjoying the Norwich Classic Bus Running Day for his 90th birthday. Inset, Mr Crowe pictured in 1990 when he retired as an Eastern Counties bus driver.

first I didn't know the area, but I started to get to know people and enjoyed it," he said.

"It was a job where you could see

the regulars and get to know them."

His son, David Crowe, 60, of Woodview Road, Easton, said he remembers his dad getting up for

5am shifts and would often wave at him on the bus when their paths crossed in Norwich.

He said: "We organised for him to

come to the bus rally so he could see some of the old drivers and maybe some of the buses he used to drive."

Three voluntary groups were involved in the Norwich Classic Bus Running Day, including the East Anglia Transport Museum in Lowestoft, the Eastern Transport Collection in Attleborough and the Ipswich Transport Museum, which provided former Eastern Counties Omnibus Company vehicles.