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April 2011

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CHARITY



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If you, or someone you know, would like to get involved and become a friend of the East Coast Truckers' Charity Then here is what to do.

Send us the minimum of £10.00 (less than 20 p per week), and you will become a Friend for a year. In return we will send you a Friends welcome pack

The charity has no employees, the expenses are kept to a minimum, so nearly all your donation goes to benefit the children of East Anglia, including a Christmas party, a trip to the Circus, Pantomime, Easter Outing, trip to SantaPod, the Children's Convoy, and a trip to the "Zoo". We also respond to special requests for equipment for individuals or groups and we can now offer **Free** holidays in our mobile home at California Cliffs.

So join now, send your donation to:

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THANK YOU.

To Get Involved Become a Member.

To do this apply for an application form from our Member's Secretary at the free post address above.

CHILD NOMINATION

The Charity's aim is to give disabled, underprivileged or fostered children memorable days out and their parents a well-deserved day off.

The charity is planning its events through the year. The main one being the Children's Convoy, run on August Bank Holiday Sunday. To maintain the charity's success I am looking for parents, guardians, organisations or friends to nominate children aged between 5 & 16 who would benefit from amazing free days out with the truckers and their families.

If any reader would like to nominate a child, please fill in the cut out section below and send it back to me or email me direct at the following address;

Thank you. Mrs. Susan Alabaster Children's Liaison Officer

E-mail susanalabaster@aol.com

Mail hard copy to our Freepost Address.

NAME:

ADDRESS :

POST CODE : PHONE NO

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION :

AGE. GENDER. DISABILITY



NEWS

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This is the time of year when things really start to heat up. And I'm not just talking about the weather. "Stand by your diaries" is the order of the day and we hope that every member makes the effort to come along and support at least one function during the long summer season.

On Sunday 10th April we got the formalities out of the way at the AGM. It was an uncomplicated meeting this year because nobody was nominated for any of the positions in the organisation. Whilst we all value the democratic process, the present set of trustees under the chairmanship of Rob Billman have piloted us very well through a rather choppy year and we now should be entering a period of calmer waters when real consolidation and progress will be made.

The Charity is in good shape. Treasurer Julian Richards emphasised our sound financial footing even though very large expenditures have been met during the last 12 months. Whilst this is no time for complacency or any slacking-off on our fundraising efforts, we are reasonably confident that we can continue our good work even if the current national economic problems take a side-swipe at our ability to keep the money rolling in.

One major strength is overheads, or lack of them. Quite obviously administration costs are a reality. Postal charges continue to rise and it is not unreasonable that those members who routinely run up hundreds of miles a month going about ECTC business should get a modest fuel allowance. We all know that the cost of running a car amounts to a lot more than filling the tank. But, our trump card that sets us aside from many charities is that we have no paid employees. As a result Julian told us that admin. amounts to just 8p in the pound. I invite anyone reading this to take a close look at what happens in some charities. It's a real eye-opener, believe me.

Make no mistake. Having no employees is a good thing. But there is a fundamental weakness in being totally reliant on volunteers. There's nothing wrong with volunteers but, all too often, there aren't enough of them. Very few people have the time to be a "seven days a week member", but seeing the same old faces who show up time and time again makes some of us wonder where are the rest of the 195 members on our books? It isn't just a question of numbers. With the greatest of respect I did mention the same old faces. Without younger members getting involved, eventually the flourishing plant that is ECTC will start to wither. Clearly some jobs are not suitable for just anyone to take up. For example, at the ordinary meeting after the AGM, Ivan mentioned his concerns about finding a successor to learn the programme that deals with the layout of the magazine that you are now reading. Sure, it can go out to be done professionally. But watch out for what that will do for productions costs. After all, the idea is to retain as much of the money that we collect as we can to spend on the children. Everyone has a talent to do something for ECTC. Please think about it.

Mike.

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Drink Cans

Don't throw your drink cans away, bring them or send them with someone to the Gas Club on our meeting day and John Hicks a new member will take them. John collects cans and crushes them. He takes them into a scrap yard for money. John tells us he has in the past had over £200 and that can come to us. *Nice One John*. The Charity received £80 at the April Meeting.

It's Knowing Who to Ask

The charity has received a grant of £5,500 from The Echo Trust. Our picture shows ECTC Chairman Rob Billman with Mr. Sergios Sergiou, General Manager of the Chicago Rock Cafe in Norwich with the trustees and some members of the nightclub staff at the presentation of the cheque. Following a tip-off that Chicago's wanted to sponsor us, enquiries and an application yielded a superb result.



From Boilers to Trailers.

page
17

Member of the Month, Gordon Saye

For most of his working life Gordon was a boiler man of some kind or another. Working for the NHS and then on some pretty dodgy disposal work of all kinds, he has seen a wide variety of things that are better off being burned. At ECT we know him primarily as our Trailer Manager.



When the exhibition trailer is needed at a venue, Gordon's the man to see. He will not only make sure that the unit is available but will also organise a truck to bring it along and someone to drive it. Like many of us later members, Gordon has never been a truck driver. But that has never stopped him having a good understanding of just what's involved getting that blooming great vehicle on site and in place whenever it's needed. He also attends to the TLC that the trailer requires. This ranges from routine servicing of the mechanical parts, which he usually sweet talks the relevant workshops into doing for him, and also to the utilities on board such as the kitchen, electrics etc. With the help of his brother Richard, Gordon has saved the charity hundreds, if not thousands of pounds with everything to refits of the kitchen and lockers etc. to painting and decorating.

The trailer is what it is today thanks, in no small measure, to the time and effort that he and his brother have put in.

But, Gordon's involvement with ECT doesn't end there. In company with Jonathan Hicks, he has charge of the collection pots. This duty isn't as simple as it sounds. These vital little receptacles which, over the year, are responsible for obtaining large sums of money from a generous public, need to be supervised, numbered, distributed, collected and generally accounted for. It isn't just a matter of persuading a shopkeeper or stallholder to have a pot. We have to know where every one of them is located, that they are routinely collected, the contents counted, an empty pot put in its place and, most importantly, a thank you note or certificate issued showing the amount collected, sent or given to the people who raised the money. This is a job that involves quite a lot of travelling around and a keen sense of making sure that everything is done diligently and correctly.

As we all celebrate his birthday not so long ago, I know that Gordon won't mind my mentioning that he is now in his 71st year. But he doesn't let a little thing like age prevent him from doing the work that he does which also includes being a very active member of the presentation team. Whenever he can he will come along to W.I. and other venues where the presentation team are telling more people about the good work that our charity does. As if that wasn't enough he also helps with promoting the charity by being part of the cutting and binding team that prepared each copy of the magazine so that they're ready for distribution. Apparently, though, he does get some spare time to indulge in his hobby which is angling. No tall tales from Gordon about "The One that Got Away". He shows up at meetings from time to time with the photographic evidence of his latest monster catch. It's only fellow-angler Gerry King who claims that what Gordon catches he, Gerry uses for bait!

Thanks from Gordon Saye

A big thank you goes out to Rodney Howlett, one of our newer members for all the kind work he does for the Charity. A few weeks ago he drove his truck from Gt. Ellingham to Eye to pick up the exhibition trailer in order to take it to Hammonds Road Care of Dereham for its annual free service kindly carried out by them. When it was ready Rodney went from Gt. Ellingham to Dereham, picked the trailer up and brought it back for a work party of just 4 members to work on it on Saturday 19th. All the diesel he used plus the paint for the locker frames, and pop rivets (well over 50) were all free of charge. Well done, Rodney.

16 The final chapter in refurbishing the lockers, took place on 30th March. I was up early once again to pick up Roger Weavers and Colin Goodrum at 8am to be out at Gt. Ellingham by 9 to finish off the back locker that could not be done on the 19th because enough members did not turn up. So a double run had to be made, Rodney Howlett supplied all the necessary equipment once again tools, drill, grinder, mig welder, paint etc, and of course the most important thing, cups of tea. Sadly Kevin was not about this time to bring freshly made bacon sandwiches. However, thanks for those that did turn up Mark, Rogerx2, Colin, and Rodneyx2. Gordon Saye. Trailer manager.

GERRY ON THE RIVER BANK

Back down on the Riverbank it's been dire, Two months of the most atrocious weather from the beginning of November up to the present. Bitter, cold and mountains of snow! There have been hardy souls that have turned out to try their luck on the bank, if they could find a stretch that wasn't frozen solid, but I wasn't one of them. Nobody could ever accuse me of being stupid!

Having spent many a weekend watching John Wilson on the tele and long time in conversation with my mate Melly discussing the logic of turning out as it was still bloody freezing cold, but after much deliberation I decided it was about time I dusted my fishing tackle off and decided to have a go. Spent a Saturday afternoon liquidising some bread, checking the line on my reels and my keep net for holes! (Hoping the mice hadn't found them at the back of the shed!)

The next decision to be made was the venue. We talked through a number of venues. The River Yare at Cringleford (this had always been a favourite winter venue for us) but over the Christmas holiday I had visited this stretch of river three times and difficult though it may be to believe (because I am damn good!) I blanked all three times, never had anything that vaguely resembled a bite. This stretch of river never produces after snow. A combination of snow water and salt always puts the fish down, perhaps I was being a bit optimistic trying it, but what the hell, and you've got to give it a go. Melly and I decided the River Wensum through Norwich City Centre had to be the place. Either Quayside or back of the Magistrates Court. Parking here is a little easier than some of the other pegs. From the Peg behind the Adam and Eve Pub during the Christmas holiday I decided to have a couple of hours. I was quite happy knocking out a few small roach on a new rod I'd bought when I struck a bite which I thought was another roach. The bite took off like a rocket across the River and then up stream!! Managing to get it under control, logic dictated this was not a small fish. Several minutes later I battled it back to my side of the river, it then proceeded to tangle itself in some old wood pilings. Finally I got it off the pilings, got it up in the water as it passed me. I could clearly see it was a double figure common carp! I looked at the carp, and then looked down at my landing net (which is not designed for any thing bigger than a large Roach!) I then thought to myself, this is another fine mess you've gotten yourself into! What the ----- do I do now? The problem was then solved by the weightiness of this leviathan..... The line snapped. The only consolation is that I saw the fish. I guess it's just another case of the one that got away.

So Melly and I duly turned up on the banks of the river Wensum at Quayside, on a bitterly cold Sunday morning. Tackled up and started fishing, I did not anticipate it being so cold. That ice was forming in the eyes of our rods before us. I would have put money on the fact we wouldn't catch anything but Roach were very happy to play, and a succession of small to medium fish were playing into our hands. Fishing liquidised bread and punched bread on the hook, we did ok. Deciding the next session would be back on the same stretch.

The next session was with the Rev Geoff who had never fished the city centre before, so was on a steep learning curve. He did actually manage to put a few fish in the net; I guess someone's boss had his back that day! But on the day his boss must have favoured me as I caught more than he did! But I took pity on him and said I would give him more lessons. He's got a lot to learn, but under my expert tuition we may make an angler of him yet, but I'm not going to hold my breath!

Tight Lines, Gerry.

By Mike Read.

I have reported in an earlier newsletter about the purchase of our static caravan Holiday Home. Well, in the New Year, thanks to the hard work of Susan Alabaster, who has charge of our registered family database, a circular went out to over one hundred addresses offering the families of our special children the chance to have a free holiday.

Wow! The response was staggering and, after my initial euphoria at the success of our project I suddenly felt somewhat dismayed. Having allocated all available weeks in the Holiday Home (AKA "Heidi Hi", see later), I sat at my desk still looking at a bundle of slips which I couldn't accommodate. This meant just one thing; a shedload of disappointed people. Jokingly, I remarked to Heather and Ivan, who had collected most of the Freepost, that we could do with another unit. "Many a true word is spoken in jest" and the Trustees agreed with me that the demand had been overwhelming and something needed to be done. I looked into leasing a second caravan for the 2011 season but this proved disproportionately expensive. Always on the lookout for a sale and, to be honest, pleased to help East Coast Truckers, California Cliffs made me an offer I couldn't refuse. In short a second-hand unit in very good condition with three bedrooms and a maximum sleeping capacity for eight people. This unit is not wheelchair-friendly but, then again, not all of our children are wheelchair dependent. So, we have bought it and, at the time of writing, we are kitting out the second unit "Ho-de-Ho" with all the household equipment it needs. We plan to start its season on Saturday 23rd April 2011.

Next year, two offers will be made; one to families who must have wheelchair access and one to those who don't.

What's with the "Heidi-Hi" story? Do you remember the old TV series about Maplin's Holiday Camp? If you do then you'll remember the standard "happy campers" greeting. "Hi-de-Hi, Ho-de-Ho". Well East Coast Truckers have their very own Heidi, namely Heidi Everett with Mum and Dad, Pam and Bernie. They are one of the founder members of our special families and Bernie was pleased to accept my suggestion that, with a spelling modification to "Heidi Hi", our holiday homes would be named. He went one stage further and offered to fabricate and fit the special nameplates. Thanks Bernie!

So, a new chapter in the larger-than-life story of East Coast Truckers begins. When you stop to think about it, what better way is there to deliver "loads of fun to special children" than to provide them with a seaside holiday? Sure, it's an expensive exercise but our benefactor, the late Mary Reeve, didn't leave us her legacy to gather dust in an uncertain financial market place.

But, and there is always a "but", in taking on two units we have doubled our annual running costs. We really do want to keep the holidays free of charge to our families. We are not a trading company and, apart from the complications around how you can charge people for their holiday, we don't charge families for anything else that we provide. A big day out like a mass trip to the Zoo can easily cost £2000 and that is only one day. We don't want any family being deprived of this holiday opportunity because they can't afford it.

So, "Caravans for Kids" is our new fundraising initiative. I am sure that from individual donors to businesses that want to have their name associated with such a worthwhile scheme, I can marshal enough money that can be ring-fenced to help cover the annual running costs. My target is £8,000 per annum. With this newsletter you will find a bright green flyer to enable you to make a payment specifically targeted to helping me cover the annual running costs. Please give what you can and tick the "Gift Aid" box if you are a U.K. taxpayer. This is worth £2.50 extra on every £10 you donate at no cost to you.

For businesses reading this, please contact me directly about special sponsorship arrangements, which will help promote your company in a very special way.

APRIL

23rd April Forum Norwich 9am until 5pm. ECTC Exhibition trailer plus trucks.
Marc James performing. See Roger Weavers for details.

MAY

1st May Bridget & Terry invite you to see their trains. See our website for details.
1st May Charity Cycle Ride at Gt. Yarmouth (Austin, Rob and friends)
1st May Mid Suffolk Show Ground, Stonham Barns. Exhibition Trailer and Trucks.
8th May Monthly meeting at the Gas Club.
28/29th May Crowfield Truck Show

JUNE

4th June Trip to the Zoo. We are now going to Banham, not Colchester.
5th June Monthly meeting at the Gas Club
5th June Halvergate Fete 2pm on Halvergate Playing Field.
26th June ECTC Exhibition Trailer at North Walsham.

JULY

2nd July Boat Trip From Wroxham Boat Leaves At 6.30pm Sharp 4 Hour Trip Food And
Disco £15 Per Head. See Marcus.
2nd/3rd July Vehicle Extravaganza at Swaffham Race Way
10th July Monthly meeting at the Gas Club
? July Teddy Bear Festival At Great Ellingham. More Details To Follow
21st-24th July Country and Western Music Festival. Norfolk Show Ground.
24th July Bridget & Terry invite you to see their trains. See our website for details.
31st July Gorleston Cliff Top Gala More Details To Come

AUGUST

6th August Forum Norwich 9.00am Till 5.00pm ECTC Exhibition Trailer Plus Trucks And Marc
James Performing. See Roger Weavers For Details.
7th August Monthly meeting at the Gas Club
13/14th August Marsham Starting Handle Club. ECTC Exhibition Trailer.
14th August Potter Heigham Country Fayre.
17th August Cromer Carnival.
28th August Annual Children's Convoy: This Is The 26th ECTC Children's Convoy.

SEPTEMBER

4th September Monthly meeting at Gas Club.
11th September Norfolk Gala Day At The Royal Norfolk Showground Costessey. See The Big
Trucks On Show And More.
 Wach our website for updates: <http://www.eastcoasttruckers.org>

Danebridge Services Ltd T/A Ivan's Photographic.

Danebridge Services Ltd. is a private closed limited company operating on a commercial basis that offers this Charity its services free of charge.

This magazine is fully compiled by Ivan's Photographic completely free of charge. All the photos taken by me or any assistant on assignment for us at different events are taken on a freelance basis (meaning no charges to the Charity).

Any photos sold are at a discounted price to the members and a percentage of the sale goes to the Charity. Any profit the Company makes from the sale of these photographs is used to fund this service.

Thanks to all the contributors that make this Magazine a success.

by Mike Read

We don't get to see many pictures of Ivan Hardy in these pages because, as you might expect, he is usually on the other side of the camera. But, having got the chance to get a snap at the children's Christmas party, I had what I needed to complete my little story.

Ivan has always been a keen photographer and when he finally retired from HGV driving he completed a course at City College to fine tune his natural ability behind the lens. These days he runs a very successful ("Too successful" according to wife Heather) photography business. There is many a happy couple who have had their special day immortalised in print by our man as well as many a proud parent who can enjoy a well composed and delightful picture of their offspring. It's not until you see some of Ivan's work with children and compared this with your best efforts with a child who blinks, won't sit still or manages in some other way to ruin the shot, that you wonder how a professional gets the results.

It is inevitable that I must include the cliché that "A picture is worth a thousand words". Let's face it; we know a lot more about how cavemen lived because of their drawings. They didn't know how to write but they did know how to tell us about themselves. So, in Ivan, ECT has an accomplished photo-biographer who records for all our Members and Friends everything that we do each year for the children. These days he's also pretty heavily into video. This involves considerably more hard work than getting still photos. Most of you will have been entertained by the 19th Convoy video. This was stage managed by Ivan with professional interviews and voice over by our own Wally Webb. It also required other cameramen to get the wide range of shots and angles that make up a movie that commands your constant attention. This particular film has been the mainstay of Jackie's presentation team ever since its inception. We're going to say a bit more about this activity elsewhere. But, back to the videos, new material is required. At the time of writing Ivan is making sure that he gets video clips whenever there's something going on in the world of ECT. He has assembled a small team of extra cameramen so that he has lots of footage to edit and this enables him to compile a final film that entertains and holds the audience's attention. You'd be surprised how much needs to go into what, on the face of it, is a simple photographic story. Unlike a film set for a commercial theatrical film, you don't get a second take. So you have to be good at getting what you want first time and you also need enough footage to leave miles of material on the "electronic cutting-room floor". Another problem with all photographic records, which include children is the unfortunate fact that some kids must not be photographed. This is usually for legal reasons that we can't go into here. It's not too much of a problem with stills because Ivan can ensure that children that, for example, may be the subject of a court order, are not in the shot. But, where video is concerned this can be an absolute nightmare. Imagine you have, say 20 or more children milling around at a party. Maybe they're lining up to do the "Conga". Even if you know what child may not be photographed, and that's not easy if their wrist bands are covered up, how do you ask them to stay out of the group? This requires great care and tact in addition to being able to take pleasing pictures.

So, hat's off to Ivan and also his helpers. They are providing a pictorial legacy that, in much the same way as we can look back now at early events in the Truckers' history through blurry, grainy pictures taken on fairly rudimentary camcorders. Our successors will be able to see for themselves what we all were doing in the early part of the twenty-first century.



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So here we are at the end of my first year as chairman. Personally, there have been some tough times in the last year - lots of highs and lows. Many hours of soul searching, trying to lead with a strong hand, a fair hand and, at times, being questioned about my motives. The trustees, as a team, have become stronger; united with strength and mutual trust. With a strong team of trustees we will progress. Some, unfortunately, have fallen by the wayside through an unwillingness to adopt new policies and changes. Changes that we have needed to make to keep us accountable. This is a regrettable, but a necessary evil if we are to progress into the 21st century. We are, without a doubt, now stepping up into the realms of a high profile charity. We have a major supermarket chain sponsoring us as their charity of the year. We have a recycling programme for wheelchairs and other associated equipment and a holiday home that will bring joy and pleasure to so many families with disadvantaged children. Our image and reputation goes before us. We are now being seen as a progressive charity, making the difference wherever we can it. So here's to another year. Let's enjoy the ride and carry on making the difference where it counts. Allow us to move forward and not dwell on the past. The children whom we serve care about today and tomorrow, not what happened yesterday.

Rob Billman.

One Picture is Worth a Thousand Words or "A good example of teamwork"

By Mike Read from Gordon's notes.

Once upon a time...at a committee meeting, it was decided that it would be a great idea to have a huge picture as a backdrop to the display area on the trailer. The project was mentioned to one of Marcus Hamling's customers through his work as a driver for Bartrums Palletline Services. This was Hussey & Knight, who are graphic designers. Gordon Saye then went and had a chat with them to see if the size we wanted could be done. The answer was "Yes". Gordon then spoke to our Chairman Rob Billman who passed it over to Ivan Hardy for a photo to be sorted out. From there Ivan then took over as he had to make a small picture into a very large picture 12 ft x 7 ft in fact. Ivan tells us that, to get the quality needed, the file size had to be bumped up to 1.7 GB. The picture was duly printed at cost price by Hussey & Knight and awaited collection.

Then the fun really started. A big picture needs a big frame. Now it was over to Gordon's brother Richard to sort out the joinery. It was then passed back to Gordon to source some sheets of polycarbonate big enough to protect the picture. Where to start? Richard at the Sign Shop suggested Amari and Gordon approached them and told them what he needed and who it was for. They gave us a very good discount on 3 sheets of 8ft x4ft polycarbonate, 6mm thick. Then it was back to Gordon's brother Richard to find some planed wood of the right length and width. That was easier said than done and he ended up with rough wood and not of the length he wanted. So he duly routed it out to look like a picture frame. Now it was time for everything to come together. The date was set for Saturday 26th March at Rodney Howlett's yard at Gt. Ellingham for it all to take shape. The day was very cold and windy but, in spite of this, the frame was made on site, the picture fitted with its polycarbonate "glass". The four workers, namely, Gordon and brother Richard, Ivan and Rodney, lifted the whole weighty assembly up. Fortunately Richard was also on hand to make the tea and coffee for us. Finally, apart from his carpentry skills, additional thanks are due Richard for donating the wood, which would have cost us £40, and all the other fastenings etc. that were needed to construct the frame.

What a great example of bringing an initial whim of an idea to a fully developed project which today enhances our exhibition trailer.

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Happy Chappy on Convoy

Bingo arranged by Maggie Stimpson & Carol Manning at Three Holes Village Hall raised £650.00. This was to say thank you for taking Maggie's Grandson Callum on last year's Convoy. What a day he had.

Editor: Truly a wonderful gesture.

On the Sunday of the Sainsbury's weekend Dawn and Bernice showed up from the Norwich pub, The Catherine Wheel with a total of £520 in crispy bank notes raised by the customers for ECTC. They keep doing this and we must extend our thanks for all their good work. On Sunday 26th June they're having an auction night and we understand it is at least partially in support of us. Try and go if you can. It's always a fun evening at the Catherine Wheel.

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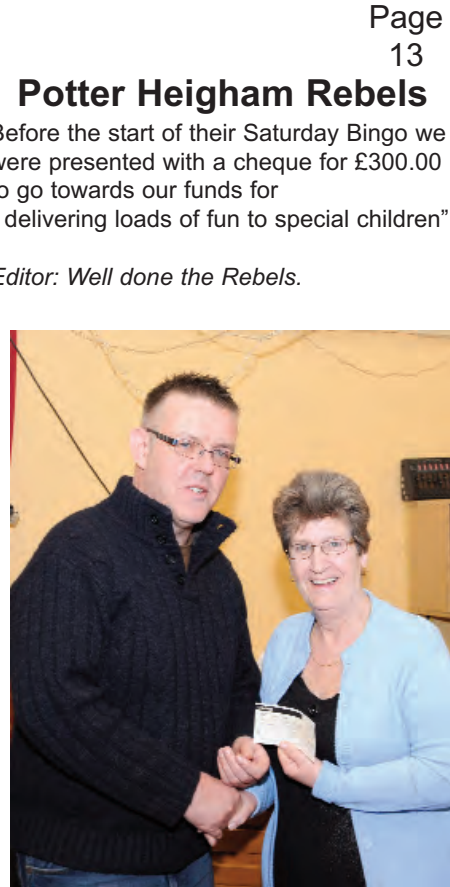
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Potter Heigham Rebels

Before the start of their Saturday Bingo we were presented with a cheque for £300.00 to go towards our funds for "delivering loads of fun to special children".

Editor: Well done the Rebels.

Maggie and Gill's Knees Up

By Susan Alabaster

What a fantastic night we had at Maggie and Gill's Knees up. It was nice to see so many people there to support them both. They are both stalwart supporters of the charity and have raised a fair bit of money selling books, running raffles, selling the monthly magazine and having donation pots all at The Red Lodge for the charity. The buffet was superb and, as always, plentiful. D. J. Henry was brilliant and, as before, he threw in a little quiz for us to take part in. (Ed's note: This was won by "Team Vain"). Most of the guests travelled to Mildenhall under their own steam, but thanks to Roger Weavers kindly offering to drive a minibus some of us didn't have to and it was much appreciated by those who travelled with him. Quite a bit of money was raised during the evening from the sale of tickets and raffle tickets that Prinny and Sharon sold, thank you to them for doing this, and what a lot of raffle prizes there were plus they were all donations, people are so kind. The bar as well gave Maggie and Gill a donation so many thanks to them and to those who were working behind the bar that evening. There was a lot of dancing, laughter and a great atmosphere that evening and this was due to all the hard work Maggie and Gill had put into making it a very enjoyable evening. Thank you ladies for all your hard work and for a wonderful night. I for one look forward to next year's 'Knee's Up'



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This Makes it all Worthwhile



To the East Coast Truckers this is just a little note to say Thanks! for our holiday offer it is really appreciated and couldn't have come at a better time my son has just lost all respite care for a few months till he can start somewhere else so our holiday in May is going to be a lovely break for us all so Thanks again from us all, Carla, Simon, Connor, Callum & Tobi X

If you ever have doubts about what you are doing at East Coast Truckers, just take a look at this card I received. No comment from me is required. Mike.

By Mike Read

On 2nd and 3rd April we were invited to promote ECT at Sainsbury's Longwater. As you all probably know, our charity is a partner of this store and we have already had the benefit of generous

discounts on the purchase of the inventories of equipment for the two holiday homes. Having the huge superstore and car park as a venue was terrific and it gave us the opportunity to tell the public what our charity does for disadvantaged and disabled children. We were particularly pleased to be able to let everyone know about our holiday home project and our collection buckets bear witness to the support they showed in terms of cash dropped in. The total for the weekend was just over £1135.00 and a good many people took information leaflets and donation forms. Let's hope we get some of those back

in due course. I would like to express my personal thanks to everyone who made the time to come along and help promote our charity either in the store itself or on the exhibition trailer. You all know who you are and it would not be practical to list everyone here. Let's just say that all of you who made the effort are a credit both to yourselves and to the Charity that you so regularly give up your spare time to support. Very many thanks



'Skint Party'

Kevin and Susan Alabaster

What a good night we had. Many thanks to everyone for their contributions to the buffet; we had a wonderful spread. It was great to see so many members there that night enjoying themselves. The Doughnut Eating Competition was a hit, but we are still not entirely sure what Jennie was doing with hers! Still, never mind. The karaoke went down well too and it was fun watching the Pass the Parcel going round the room. Thank you to David Thorndyke for doing the disco and Prinnie for organising the raffle. But most of all thank you for coming.



Circus Trip

Susan Alabaster

On Sunday, 2nd January, two coaches left County Hall, escorted by David Land and Russell in their trucks (many thanks to them for kindly offering their services), with some very excited children and adults aboard bound for the Hippodrome Circus at Great Yarmouth.. When we arrived we were met by our Chairman, Rob Billman, and other members of the charity who had also come along with their families. Heather did a great job at the Gt. Yarmouth end organizing the children and adults who met there, many thanks to her. Once we were all inside and settled the show began, and as always we were not disappointed. It was a great show and children and adults alike had a thoroughly enjoyable time..

I would like to thank Marcus for organizing the seating and Darin for organizing the marshals. Also, a big "Well Done" to everyone who helped on the day, and to Roger for very kindly driving one of the coaches.



Pantomime Trip to see Little Red Riding Hood

Susan Alabaster

On Saturday, 22nd January, we went to see the Attleborough Players Production of Little Red Riding Hood and it was lovely to welcome some of the children from Chapel Road School. This was their first outing with us.

We all settled down and what a treat we were given! A great performance from the Players as always and the jokes came thick and fast. It was lovely to see and hear the children laughing and joining in, as well as the adults and I have to say that our Chairman, Rob Billman, was pretty quick on his feet with jokes himself when he went up on stage to give his thanks at the end.

Many thanks to Graham Smith, Chairman of the Players, for making us feel so welcome that afternoon and for the drinks and refreshments which were provided by them. And thank you to the Ladies of the Attleborough WI for organizing them. Everyone that helped on the day and especially Heather for her dealing with booking our guests in, to Darin for organizing the parking and to Roger for driving one of the coaches. All of them deserve our thanks. Many thanks also to Rodney Howlett and Russell for escorting the coaches from and to County Hall. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

