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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.

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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
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION :

AGE. GENDER. DISABILITY

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NEWS

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Summer is always our busiest time of the year. Almost on a daily basis stories about various events involving the Truckers come in and we have quite a job making enough room to report everything in the magazine in good time.

This summer has been particularly busy because events concerning the future of the Convoy have overshadowed everyone's thinking. But, to quote the old theatrical expression "The show must go on!" The Convoy is secure for this year and everyone may rest assured that everything is being done to make sure that this flagship event has a rosy future. I think we are all grateful to everyone who has had petitions signed and, no doubt, the Trustees will make an official co-ordinated response to the powers-that-be in due course. But, in the meantime we just get on with what we do best – deliver loads of fun to special children.

You will be able to read reports on various events in this edition so let's never forget the band of members who turn out week after week to supervise these outings etc. and also show up time and time again to represent our charity in all manner of places.

Talking about fun, the Holiday Homes have been a runaway success. We receive cards and 'phone calls expressing thanks for the good times that ECT has provided and, significantly, only a few customers have found it necessary financially to ask for the return of their security deposit. This is very important because, for next year when the full cost of site fees etc. will have to be met from our funds, between £8K and £10K will be required to meet our commitments if we are to continue to offer the holidays free-of-charge.

With the storage help provided by Big Yellow (see elsewhere about this) our wheelchair activities have burgeoned. Lots of equipment has been received as donations and some money spent on refurbishments, which has resulted in many more children receiving pieces of kit that would otherwise have been denied to them.

Briefly, back to the Convoy. As most of you know there was serious breakdown on both the technical and communications front with the result that the eagerly expected video has been a long time coming. Well, we now have it completed and Ivan will be dealing with the sale of this. We also have compiled a new video for use by the presentation team on their many visits out to preach the good word. This deals with other activities undertaken by ECT and we think goes a long way to publicising our good work.

Finally, we need to say a word about Sainsbury's. The Longwater, Norwich superstore has been our charity partner for the last year. Unfortunately, in spite of our best efforts, we have had to give way to another charity for this year but we are grateful for the benefits that our year with Sainsbury's has meant. We had a great fundraising weekend with them back in April and were given a very generous discount when we purchased all the equipment needed for the holiday homes. As a result of the checkout collection pots that have been in place for the last 12 months a cheque for £1618.90 has been received. And, last but by no means least, 24 staff members have volunteered to assist Darin Culling as stewards in Gt. Yarmouth on Convoy Day 2011. So, well done Sainsbury's. Our year may be at an end but our friendly association with this super-market will continue well into the future.

Mike.

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Andy Tait Memorial Seat

Susan Alabaster

Saturday the 11th June, saw the family of Andy Tait along with old friends, children who Andy had been special to and representatives of the Charity gather at Pleasurewood Hills for the unveiling of The Andy Tait Memorial Seat. It was a beautiful warm and sunny day, matching the disposition of the man himself. Geoff Brendling opened the proceedings, welcoming us all there. Speeches followed; Glenn Johnson, Sheila Sarsby, Sheila Jones (Tait) and Rob Billman, all paid tribute to this wonderful man. Geoff closed the proceedings with a prayer and Judy and Sheila unveiled the seat. A toast was proposed in memory and Judy laid a single red rose on the table.

Dedicated to the fond memory of ANDY TAIT
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And we used Alan and Allison as bait.
Betty laid the table with sandwiches and cakes
And the disco man was ready with his tapes.
As everyone waited conversations filled the air,
Would she be happy? Was our only fear.
As she entered the room she was met with joy and tears
And we went on to celebrate her 70 years.
Barbara is extra special and everyone's friend,
We thank her for her continued support and may it never end.



Picture supplied by Sheila Sarsby

Criminal Record Bureau (CRB CHECKS)

This is a gentle reminder that a condition of ECTC membership is that each member has to have a CRB check. Whether you help with the children or not there are no exceptions. The forms are simple to complete and I need to see your original documents, i.e. Drivers licence, Passport, proof of NI number and 5 years address history. If you have a CRB through your own work place or another organisation it does not cover you for your ECTC membership. The trustee's have agreed that although the Disclosure Form does not have an expiry date, for our charity, the checks will be completed every three years. All data is kept securely and the charity's copy of the disclosure form is kept by me. Please be assured that these are not shown or discussed with anyone unless the disclosure shows an applicant is unsuitable to work with children.

Sheila Sarsby. President ECTC.

Ed's Note: The Trustees are unequivocal about CRBs. No CRB - no membership

Big Yellow Self Storage

By Mike Read

Things were getting a bit desperate Chez-moi as my garage was bulging at the seams with various wheelchairs and other equipment awaiting allocation. Big Yellow at Riverside, Norwich have come to my rescue and have given ECT a very worthwhile size storage room F.O.C. Normal cost would be in excess of £40 p.w. so we extend our thanks for this thoughtful and generous gesture. Space is still at a premium but, anyone with an immediate short-term need for dry, secure, insured storage for any ECT stuff should ask me and I'll do what I can.

Teddy Bears' Picnic at Great Ellingham

Well, what a day! Yet again a mixture of sunshine and heavy showers, but thankfully Kevin Alabaster was on hand to come and rescue the children and us from around the village and deliver us back to the Village Hall. The children who came along had a good time and we did manage to find quite a lot of Bears before the rain fell down on us. We had our picnics in the Hall and refreshments were provided by Jackie and Gloria, (who stayed dry!) The entertainer did a very good job and was kindly sponsored by The Norwich and Peterborough Building Society, thank you. Many thanks to Rob Billman who brought his truck along, it was a very busy day for him. And many thanks to everyone who came along and helped with refreshments and took care of the children.

Susan Alabaster



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Trip to Banham Zoo

Susan Alabaster

On Saturday the 4th June, two coaches of children and adults were escorted to Banham Zoo for a day out. Once there, we were joined by a further coach that had made it's way from Suffolk. When the tickets were paid for we all made our way into the Zoo. The weather was perfect and our guests had a great time there, looking at the animals, running round and collecting their stamps for their cards, having fun in the play area and riding on the little train. The adults too seemed to be enjoying it as well. Before we left I collected, from the Reception Area, medals for all the children to take home and a group photo was taken to remind us of the day. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped



on the day, to John Burroughs for overseeing one of the coaches and Heather Hardy for booking in our guests at the Banham end. Many thanks to Rob Billman and David Land for very kindly escorting us in their trucks on our journey to and from County Hall and the Zoo. A special thank you also goes to Simon Waspe for arranging things at the Suffolk end, it was much appreciated. I do hope you all enjoyed it.

Halvergate Fete

Susan Alabaster

After our meeting on Sunday 5th June, we went to the Annual Fete at Halvergate. Ploughman's lunches were available, scones and jam, filled rolls, variety of cakes, strawberries and cream and of course Betty's famous sausage rolls. There was music, a variety of stalls, a couple of quizzes that everyone could take part in and of course the little trailer with the ECT merchandise. Betty had also, once again, provided a couple of wonderful raffles.



The weather was good and quite a few of us sat outside on the grass chatting and generally just enjoying the afternoon. We are always made to feel so welcome there by Betty and her ladies. That afternoon an

amazing £745 was raised and we also received a cheque for £200, (the kind person who donated this to us wishes to remain anonymous). Once again a big thank you to Betty and her wonderful team of ladies for all their hard work and a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

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.

20th August Beach-day TBA

21st August Special meeting at Gas Club to brief and hand out convoy shirts

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.

OCTOBER

2nd October Monthly meeting at Gas Club.

8th October 'Maggies-knees-up' Mildenhall Bell Hotel 7.30pm til late £7.50 including buffet, tickets from Maggie(Red Lodge) or Kevin Alabaster

NOVEMBER

6th November Monthly meeting at Gas Club.

26th November Dinner-Dance Holiday Inn Norwich. Watch for details.

DECEMBER

4th December Monthly meeting at Gas Club.

10th December Children's Christmas Party at Hellesdon High School.

A Thank You

I would just like to thank Rodney Howlett and Trevor Howlett for bringing their trucks along to my School's Annual Fête and Jenny Getley, a Friend of the charity, who so kindly came along and helped run the book stall. The weather wasn't the best, sunny with heavy downpours, but we managed to stay dry.

Susan Alabaster

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 *Jackie Noy*

In July 2010 Pauline Dixie was elected President of the Norwich Inner Wheel, which meets at the Patterson Club, Cringleford, and she chose East Coast Truckers as her charity after coming along to an Inner Wheel open meeting where we were doing a presentation at North Walsham. She was so impressed with ECTC that she booked us straight away. On 14th July we were presented with a cheque for £1,062 at Pauline's home at the changeover of Presidents.

Various coffee mornings, strawberry teas, Christmas Bazaar and many other events including a presentation during March raised this money.

I attended the Christmas Bazaar during last November and had a very pleasant time with various things going on like raffles, tombola, cake stall and lots of lovely Christmas goods for sale. There was also a refreshment department keeping us all set up with sausage rolls, mince pies and even soup and a roll for a modest price.

When the Bazaar closed I was lucky enough to win a prize in the raffle and I also won the "Guess the Name of the Puppy" competition.

When Heather, Ivan and I went to the President's home on 14th we enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon with refreshments and we were able to tell those there a bit more about our plans at ECTC for the coming year.



**Haulier profile
BARTRUMS**

Bartrums stands out as being one of the longest established large haulage firms that have been involved with East coast truckers in recent times. Bartrums trucks are a common sight both on convoys and at various events through out the year. The fleet consists of 164 trucks ranging from 7.5 tons through to 44 tons carrying a variety of goods from palletised loads to bulk. The variety of loads varies from machine parts to soft drinks and cereal crops. Running a predominantly Mercedes fleet this forward thinking company are constantly re-evaluating their performance both in fuel and maintenance costs and in carbon footprint thanks to each vehicle being satellite tracked and performance monitored via Mercedes own fleet monitoring system. Data from each vehicle can be downloaded at any given moment providing information on driver and truck performance throughout the working day. The aim is to provide an efficient haulage operation and to stay competitive in today's harsh economic climate. Employing 234 drivers this is no small operation. Currently 8 of these drivers are ECTC members, and of course not forgetting Julian Richards. Transport manager at Bartrums by day, Trustee and treasurer for ECTC in his spare time. East coast truckers are pleased to be associated with Bartrums and hope this relationship will continue for many years to come. *Rob Billman*

By Mike Read

The Rev. Geoff did his stuff with the weather and 16th April 2011 was a lovely day. When Chairman Rob 'phoned me early that Saturday morning it was raining on him at North Walsham. But as the morning progressed the clouds disappeared and we became bathed in sunshine for the grand opening of "Heidi Hi" and "Hodi Ho". Veteran supporters of ECT Bernie and Pam Everett brought our special girl Heidi along for the occasion and with the Viscountess Sheelin Knollys, she cut the ribbon and our first holiday family, the Tarfts, got their week's holiday under way. We had a good number of members in attendance along with our specially invited guests; The Mayor and Mayoress of Gt Yarmouth, Vice Chairman of NCC and the Chairman of Broadland District Council and Consort.



After the speeches and toasts we all left our first family to enjoy their holiday and went down to the California Cliffs Club to enjoy a splendid buffet lunch. Well done to Rachael and her team for getting the food ready for us.

I could go on and on about the Holiday Homes but you'll be glad to hear that I won't. Just let's say that, after about 8 weeks of holidays at the time of writing, everything is going well and, apart from a couple of gaps at "Hodi Ho" which could still be filled, the whole season is fully booked until 29th October in both units.



Our new Health & Safety Officer

Our picture shows Ian Mackie receiving his Institution of Occupational Safety and Health Managing Safety Certificate having completed a four-day course with Milne Marketing of Wymondham, Norfolk.

Having regard to what our charity does with our "precious cargoes" that often maligned expression "health & safety" is something that we have to take very seriously. Well done to Ian for completing the course and the projects he was set and for passing the exam. *Mike Read.*

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Susan Alabaster

On Sunday 26th June we went to North Walsham, the home town of our Chairman Rob Billman, to be a part of their Fun Day. It was a glorious sunny hot day and the Memorial Park where it was held was filled with adults and children enjoying themselves. The ice cream seller did roaring trade; in fact he had to send out for further supplies. Our trailer was there. Thanks to John Dutton for bringing it along, plus the merchandise, tombola and children's craft stalls. Thank you to Alan, Allison, Barbara, Donna, Molly, Sheila, Jackie and Gloria for manning them. Ray, Gordon and Roger also lent an invaluable hand on the day.



There were two splendid trucks parked either side of the trailer, courtesy of Andy Jackson and Rob Billman. And we were also lucky enough to have a guest truck there from Richard Morter who just came along of his own accord to join us for the day - a lovely gesture. Friends old and new came and said "Hello" and I had a very in-depth chat with a little boy about the photos of the Lorries, Woody Bear etc., on the boards that were in front of the trailer. They do get noticed by everyone, including the very young.

The Forum

Susan Alabaster.

What a beautiful sunny day it was when we gathered at The Forum on Easter Saturday. The trailer was there along with a fine display of trucks thanks to Nigel Folkard, Rodney Howlett, Trevor Howlett, Gary Gedge and Brad Kirk. There was also the merchandise, and tombola, many thanks to Alan and Allison for manning and setting up the merchandise stall and to everyone who helped them, Jackie and Gloria also did a wonderful job of manning the tombola. There were Easter Eggs which were given out to the children, provided for us by Sainsbury's at a generous discount and of course....Entertainment! The Minute Steaks, who provided their services free, did a great job and were much appreciated by the crowd that had gathered. We then had our 'resident' singer Marc James perform for us and the crowd, that had grown even more, in the afternoon



and as always he was great. The atmosphere on the day was brilliant, the weather could not have been better. The crowd that gathered seemed in no hurry to go, at 5.00 pm they were still sitting on the steps of the Forum. Thank you to everyone that came along and helped and gave their support on the day, but most of all thanks must go to Roger Weavers for arranging and organizing the event, and what a successful day it was.

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G'day from upsidedownland.

Well, still alive & kicking in case you thought otherwise. Sorry for the delay in sending a corner over, had one done on laptop but the poxy thing froze & had to re-boot the system. I know, why didn't I print it off before. No call for a printer in a truck these days & after I did my techno bit on the laptop it went away never to return. (R.I.P. previous Corner).

So, what's been happening? Apart from me working hard (for a change) and trying to be super hip and cool in a nightclub, not a lot really. No doubt you've heard about the floods & cyclones we've been having here mainly in Queensland, New South Wales & Victoria. We missed out on 90% of the floods although the local pub got bit close to being waterlogged so started to panic a bit.

Here I sit at the Sydney depot having a cuppa & toasty sarnie where it's 34oC outside and it's supposed to be Autumn! As for trying to be super hip & cool in a nightclub, went out with a few people on a birthday party and ended up in a trendy club.

Me trendy? Nah! Anyway after a few lagers I realised that apart from the building itself I was the oldest thing there. So many drinks later I realised I was getting old when looking at all the girls wearing short skirts and even shorter tops with the boobs hanging out all I could think of was "hmmm their gonna get cold on the way home tonight." Not only was that bad enough but was on a drinking competition with a couple of blokes and I'm sorry to report I failed. I hate Scotch and they were pumping me with Jim Beam & Coke. Needless to say at 3am and one dry heave later it was a case of TAXI...

About 3 weeks ago we had a week's holiday. Decided to go to Tasmania for 4 days. Left Mandy on computer to sort out hotels & flights. After 20 minutes she said she'd found a hotel down from \$130 a night to \$120. She thought that was a good deal so decided to book it. I had a quick glance at the screen and said go ahead. Now before I go further I must point out my excuse is I didn't have my glasses on when I looked at the screen. After about 2 minutes there was a lot of swearing from Mrs W. She realised after paying the hotel bill that it wasn't \$120 a night. Ended up as 3 nights for \$1,250 (About 700 Quid). Oops! Anyway decided to continue and booked a return flight from Melbourne to Hobart.

Another \$500 later I decided to go online to book a hire car. After what we just spent I went for a cheapy Getz. This gets better! On the day of the flight we left home with ample time to get to airport and drop our car in a car park.

The Melbourne ring road was for the first time I can remember like the M25 on a Friday night. "OK" says I, "No problem, it won't last long". WRONG! Arrived at the terminal with minutes to spare but, taking into account there was a girl on check-in and a couple of people in a queue, she seemed more interested in her nails and hair. By the time we got to check in she said we were too late to board. Mandy noticed within seconds I was about to go into mental mode and she stepped in. She could have gone as she had an E ticket but as I had a case to check in, I couldn't. Another \$200 later and the 'check in Lesbian bitch' booked us on the next day's flight. So back home for another night. Next day arrived 2 hours early, checked in and all was going fine. I had a bad feeling, which turned out correct. 20 minutes before boarding we were told the flight was delayed till about 6pm and no confirmation that would take off either. (It didn't).

Within seconds the Cruiser was in SS storm trooper mode and stormed off to the info desk to find out what the hell was going on. Was told by some spotty brainless moron that the flight was cancelled due to "planned maintenance". When I informed the said moron that maintenance was exactly that 'planned', he informed me that it could be unplanned maintenance like a bald tyre. I informed him that the wheels are on the ground for about 800 metres while we take off and about the same when we land. And aren't the tyres checked when it's re-fuelled etc?

Next excuse was perhaps there was no crew available. After informing them that they're are making the Nigerian scammers look honest, said moron went away and out came some 20-year-old, very scared looking girl. She got the same treatment from me but in a pleasant sounding voice. (No eye contact with her as she had other attributes to look at).

So all in all, no flight, no holiday, lost \$400 dollars on hotel as they cancelled the other nights, no car hire but the reservation is on hold indefinitely if we ever get there and still waiting 6-8 weeks for any refunds from airline.

So instead of sitting on a waterfront balcony sipping wine looking out over Hobart marina we ended up at sister-in-law's drinking lager on a wooden bench looking out over a paddling pool.

The story continues in the next issue.

The things we do at ECTC

by Mike Read

The Convoy, the days out, the parties and the holiday homes are headline grabbers. But we also do other things that could easily go unnoticed except by the families who directly benefit from the help we can give. From time to time we come across a situation where, for one reason or another, a child is going without a wheelchair or other piece of equipment that would make a significant difference to his or her life – not to mention the family that looks after him or her.

Some items fall outside the scope of what Social Services can provide. Cost is a major issue in this respect and social workers and occupational therapists are not permitted to spend thousands particularly where the use that a child may get out of the equipment could be short-lived. This is understandable because it seems that very little is done to recycle, refurbish and re-use equipment within the social system. I expect many of you can think of examples of equipment that is handed out to people who need it but little or nothing seems to happen when it comes to collecting it back for re-use. When we provide something it is a gift. All we ask is that when and if it no longer is needed we just get a 'phone call so that we can put it to good use elsewhere. Typically I say something like "It's yours for as long as you need it – but, when you're done with it, I don't want to see it on eBay!"

This time round we're focussing on Shane Oliver and his parents Alan and Marie. Shane has Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome. This is an inherited problem and Shane's need for a special chair came to our attention when we learned about the fund-raising his parents were doing. Help was already forthcoming from his grandmother and godfather. We were able to fund the rest and you can see Shane in his wheelchair.



But the story doesn't end there. His old wheelchair had plenty of service life left in it and the Olivers were only too glad to donate it to us. So we had it sent back to the manufacturer for a complete refurbishment. When I got it back it was indistinguishable from a new one and it is now serving another child at the Warren special needs school in Oulton Broad. That story can wait for another day. This story hasn't finished yet. The Olivers also had a special car seat that had been partially provided by the Beckham Foundation. We've got that too and, currently, a new user for that is being sought.

"Waste not want not" is a good motto to live by in the throwaway society in which we live. And, thanks to the generosity of the Big Yellow Self Storage Company (see elsewhere in this edition) we are accumulating a veritable "library" of used but eminently still usable kit, which will find new homes and new families to benefit.

We at ECTC think that Social Services could learn a lesson or two from us.

Boat Trip

On a lovely summer's evening in July, we gathered at Wroxham Broads for an evening on the river. Once aboard the boat we enjoyed a lazy trip along the river, music was provided by our D.J. for the evening, Mr Ray Sarsby and a wonderful buffet provided by Marcus and Becky Hamling. Everyone had a good time, plenty of laughter and fun was had, especially by our Lady President, Mrs Sheila Sarsby. Being on the river does seem to affect her! Many thanks to Marcus and Becky for all their hard work and for providing us with a very relaxing evening.

Susan Alabaster

Trip to Donnington Park

Susan Alabaster

On a very early Easter Sunday morning, some of our members, me included, were picked up by coach from Norwich and Attleborough to take us to Donnington Park for the day as guests of Renault. On our way we stopped at Red Lodge for a cuppa and to pick up some more passengers.

Before we disembarked from the coach, we were issued with our VIP tickets and then the day was ours. As you would expect there was a good display of trucks to see



and we saw our friend Jim Bennett who was also there. The VIP Hospitality Suite was very busy, but once inside we were provided with a variety of refreshments and sustenance depending on the time of day you went in there. When I visited it was a hot meal, others had sandwiches and cake. There was a clown outside the suite, who seemed to take a shine to Barbara and kissed her on the hand, plus there was an Elvis tribute singer and Barbara soon forgot the clown in favour of him. In fact our Lady President, Sheila Sarsby, was also quite taken by him and when we got back on the coach to go home I noticed that both these ladies had removed the red scarves that they were wearing when we arrived there in favour of the yellow ones he had given them! We also, Barbara and Sheila included, watched some great racing. Legends Cars, Pickups and of course.... Trucks. The trip home was very entertaining, Lizzie, Mick and Neil, were at the centre of this at my end of the coach and the front of the coach also had a very good time. It was a fantastic day out and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Many, many thanks to Roger for arranging this great day out for us.

Monkey Business in Thetford Forest

At the invitation of Laura Whitehouse and manager Mark Elliott of Thetford Go Ape! Heather, Ivan, Jackie and I visited their premises in the forest to collect a cheque for £1,000 (not £26000.00 as shown). Go Ape! are big donors to charities and ECTC were lucky enough to be nominated to receive this money. This company provides energetic days out for children of 10 years and above and adults who can spend several hours under professional instruction swinging around in the trees. Not quite the style of things for the members in our picture but would be great fun for some of our older able-bodied children to enjoy in the future. Thanks to everyone at Go Ape! including Stuart who donned the gorilla outfit for some of our photos. Mike Read.

