

# Official Diary

The Border Holiday Group

## Heerlen 2017

8<sup>th</sup> September - 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017



# Babbles & Memorable Phrases

Pauline "Ice Cream phone" Lesley "Hush Water" Glenise "He had hamon"

Pauline - "Oh look you get manicures." Lesley - "No it's a Mini Circus"  
It was neither it was an advert for Mini Cruises!

"Aw we don't have a macozi, Lyndy & muriel do." Lesley on bath with jets.

Gordon on the live cooking "The shook it whille Ee wait."

Lyndy - "How many more are there to shubble off the bus?"

"Who's Ian?" Brian on day 7 (Ian was his VIP!!!)

Brian to Keith when discussing mobile phones - "What are you on?"  
Keith - "HEINEKIN!"

Lyndy "They like their tungles" Tunnels.

Peter - "Can we get two bits of paper please?" Pauline - "Are you needing it to  
write on?" Peter - "No. That paper stuff for your hands" Paper Towel!!

Lesley - "Is Haig gaun ootside for some french toast?" Fresh Air!!

Lesley - "Are you wanting your photo taken in front of those green  
things?" Trees!!

Gillian - "Have you seen the hopipitimos"

"We need and end oof photo night" - Brian

Gillian - "Hawick is a year behind us"

"Ee've jist tain the mooth right oot ma words" - Gordon - "Now ee've let  
the bag oot the cat"

"Jist you eat yer pish & chips" Gordon

To be fair for most of the week we were all babbling, in fact it got so bad  
we lost track of them all!!!!

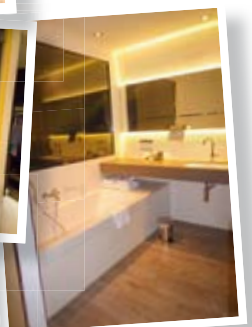
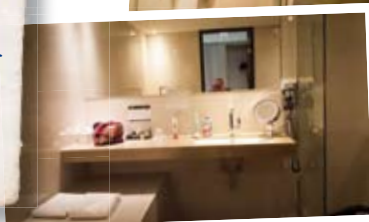
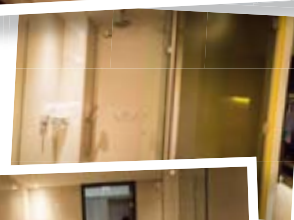
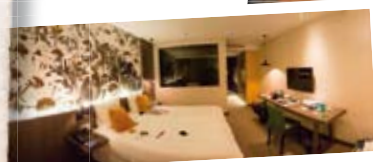
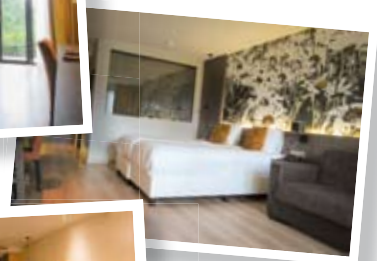
## Grateful thanks must go to the following people for helping make this trip happen...

Margaret Reekie Trust, Mainetti, Walker Love,  
Rattlin Crew, Charels Denoon, L Gibson,  
Alistair Cunningham, Maxton 21 Club,  
Staff & Customers at Morrisons, Hawick Community  
Hospital, Oregon Cake Club, Scottish Borders Enterprise  
and Weens Eventide Homes.

The Jumbulance drivers - brendan & The Lovely Martin, all  
the staff at the Vander Valk Hotel Heerlen.

The care team, VIP's and all the friends and family who have  
baked, cooked, made sandwiches, manned bars and sold tickets.

## Thank You!







## Day 1 - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September

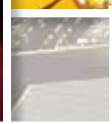
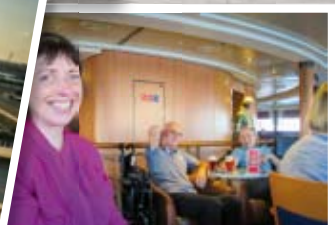
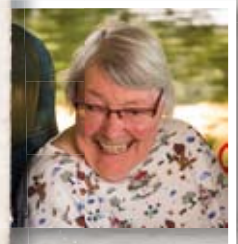
Well here we go. Everyone eagerly waiting at the Haugh at 9.15 to start 'the holiday of a lifetime'. Brendan & Martin busy putting luggage on the bus, Pauline busy checking passports, insurance & meds. Family & friends came to wave us off, some were lucky enough to get on the Jumbulance and look around.

All aboard, we set off leaving the Haugh at 10am waving to our families and friends and saying 'see ya in a week'. Everyone chatting and getting to know each other. When driving down Weensland I said about my fancy dress to Gillian, who then remembered she had left hers in the house. A quick call to her dad and who then caught us up at Jedburgh, catastrophe averted.

Gordon started speaking on the mic, welcoming everyone on-board the 2017 Jumbulance trip. To start the holiday off, names were put in Russell's had to pick the group leaders for the week. My name was first out. Gordon came and sat next to me as I was the first Group leader. I had to announce when lunch was being served, and when we would be arriving at the ferry.

We arrived at the ferry port in Hull at 4pm. Gordon, Lesley & Pauline went to get our tickets and boarding passes, then we boarded the ferry. We freshened up in our cabins, then went to explore the ferry and saw some of the cars boarding. We met up with some of the group and had a drink before dinner. The whole group met at 7pm and went in for dinner; there was a large selection of meals, curry's, roasts and plenty of sweets to choose from. After dinner we had the Bell Ceremony where I handed the bell over to Ian who would be group leader the following day, his birthday. We then went through to watch the live band and danced the night away.

Christine & Gillian



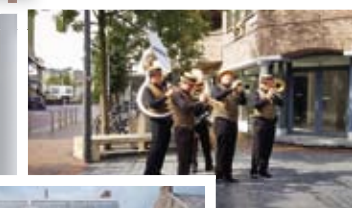


## Day 2 - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Saturday saw us wake up on the Pride of Hull which was my 48th birthday and also my day for being our Group Leader. After a lovely breakfast, in the restaurant, we boarded the Jumbulance and I asked Brendan if he could take us to our hotel. On the way we stopped in a lovely town in Belgium called Genk. I needed a new belt and we found a shop where I bought one which fitted perfectly. My carer Brian and I met up with Keith, Haig, Adam and Euan enjoying a refreshment, in the glorious sunshine, after our lunch in a big shopping center. As Brian was getting a drink at the bar the manager started to talk about football and especially Brian's favourite team. Our new friend also told us that he used to be a roadie for the bands Rolling Stones and Motorhead.

We then boarded the bus and headed the short distance to the hotel in Heerlen. Once we all were issued with our rooms, we sat down to a delicious meal. Some other VIPs watched chef's do a "live cooking" session as they waited for their meals to be cooked such as steaks and prawns. Every VIP was very impressed with the standard of rooms they were going to be staying in for the next 7 nights and decided to retire for an early night. A few of the others decided to head to the hotel bar for a drink before bedtime.

Ian & Brian





## Day 3 - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September

We woke to a beautiful morning and after a hearty breakfast, including cake and custard, we set off for Maastricht where we boarded the boat for Liege. Gordon ordered some Aperitifs and we set sail, passing through the largest Lock in Europe of 15 meters. Euan was lucky to sit next to the Captain and he was allowed to wear the Captain's hat!

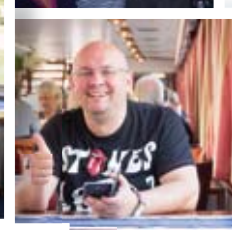
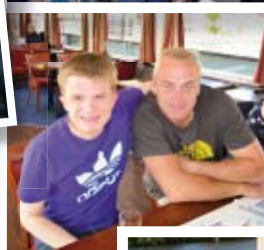
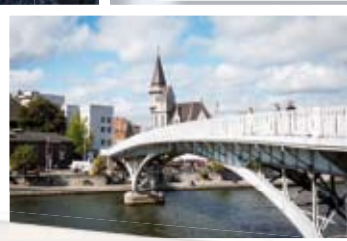
When we arrived at Liege we had a lovely lunch at Cafe Darius. We then had a wander around the market, some of the purchases included a lovely dress for Pauline and some strawberries for the return journey, which were not the bargain they appeared to be as they were horrible!

At 3.30pm we got back on board the boat for our return journey to Maastricht. Lesley noticed lots of "green things" (Trees!!) along the way and took some photos of these to show everyone!

Maastricht was very busy and after some difficult manoeuvres, by Brendan, we headed back to the hotel where once again we had another 1st class dinner followed by some aperitifs with excellent company in the hotel lounge.

An early night was very much needed by all and we retired to bed happy and content after an amazing first day!

Frances & Judith





## Day 4 - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September

On Monday the weather appeared to be settled and the sun was going to shine. After a lovely breakfast we all took our seats on the Jumbulance. We travelled not too far and arrived at Gaia zoo, where we had a wonderful morning, walking round seeing lots of animals in enclosures that looked like where they would live in nature. We stopped for lunch at the cafe where everyone enjoyed a lovely lunch with a variety of food and drinks.

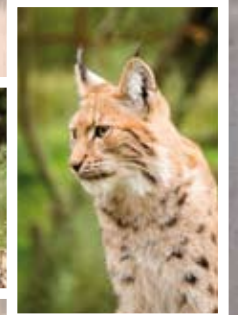
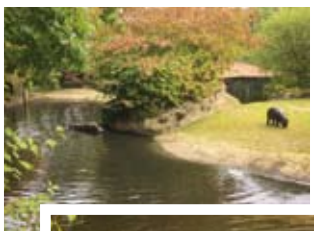
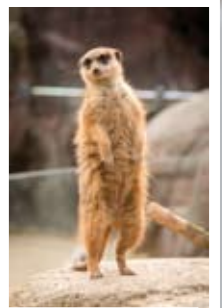
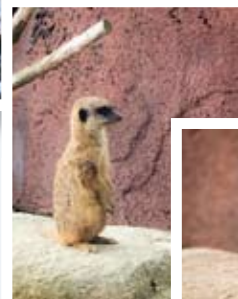
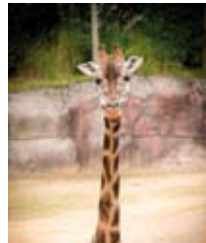
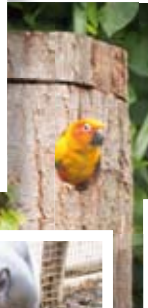
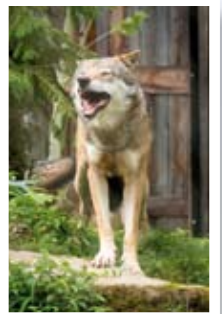
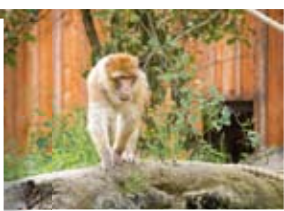
We continued on to the next part of the zoo experience, where we saw all of the larger animals in their enclosures and they had lots of natural vegetation, as they would in the wild. Animals we saw included zebra, rhino, giraffe, the lions and not forgetting the silver-back gorilla and his wee family. The Zoo was excellent.

We re boarded the Jumbulance and returned to the hotel to get ready for our dinner being served. We had an exceptional 3 course dinner in the beautiful restaurant. After dinner we continued up to the hotel bar and took our seats in the back room where we took part in the newspaper quiz! The other team won. They had Alex, with his long legs, as the answer runner and no one could beat him to it. A super night was had by all and we all retired to our comfy rooms to rest and prepare for the next eventful day.

Muriel and Lyndy









## Day 5 - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September

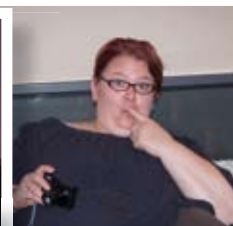
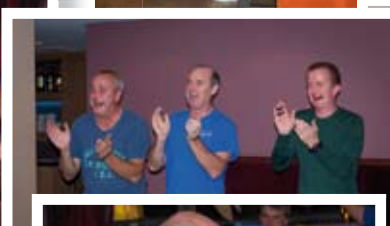
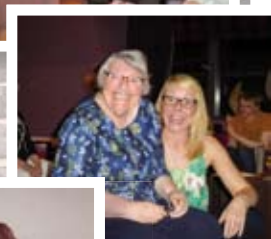
The day started with a good sausage breakfast x 2. Then once everyone had finished breakfast, we gathered at the front of the hotel, where Russell announced that we were going to Cologne, we made our way to the bus, this was a special day as it was Russell's mums birthday and he wanted to get her something nice. When we arrived in Cologne he decided to get Pauline to help him shop and leave Pete out altogether:

Within a few minutes the shopping had been done and the focus was now on lunch. Gordon found a nice side street café where we had a very nice sandwich I had a pizza and yes boiled sausage for Russell (what a change). Once lunch was had it was hunt the football with Gordon. Once we had obtained the ball (not as easy as it sounds as the ball was 3 floors up, and only an escalator to get there. Unfortunately Gordon forgot Russell didn't do escalators so ended up stuck on the 3rd floor with Russell, after getting the goods lift back down) it was back to the bus. On the way Russell twisted his leg and was helped back to the bus where Pauline checked him over and told him to have a hot bath and rest his leg and she would check it again later. Which she did.

After dinner it was play your cards right which Margaret won. Then the two drivers had a go and Martin got all the way through the game, Brendan didn't do nearly as well. Then Russell, following nurses' orders decided it was time to rest his leg (and yes watch the football on TV surrounded by sweets crisps and juice).

A good day was had by all.

Russell & Peter





## Day 6 - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September

After taking over as Group Leader the previous evening, the start of activities on the Wednesday morning was delayed due to heavy rain showers. Because of the weather, it was decided to go for a walk in the hotel grounds, heading down to Terworm Castle Hotel and its grounds. Dodging the showers, the group, many in waterproofs, headed down the road and into the Castle courtyard. This was followed by a wander round the gardens with its fountain and Orangery, which is used as a wedding venue. The group had a walk along one of the many paths before returning to the Castle Hotel for a break. Everyone then set off back to the Hotel for a buffet lunch, and Ian enjoyed a second birthday cake. He must be like royalty having two birthdays in a year!

After a very enjoyable lunch, most of the group headed for the hotel swimming pool for an afternoon in the pool, spa and sauna. Ian really enjoyed himself in the pool, especially when it was the girls helping him!

At night, it was time for the fancy dress party! Everyone had made a big effort, and the group paraded around the dining room before settling down for dinner. Some of the other diner's began to clap as the group made its way around, and some of them came up to meet us and get some pictures taken with the group. With costumes ranging from rugby and football players to a leprechaun, giant white rabbit and even a Dusty Bin, the group certainly made a big impression on other guests and the hotel staff. Following another fantastic meal, everyone moved upstairs to the bar for some music and dancing. Another very enjoyable day, despite the mixed weather, and thanks to Gordon, Lesley and the team for all their hard work in putting everything together.

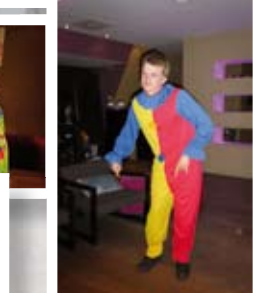
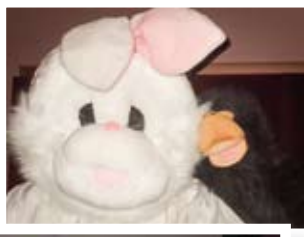
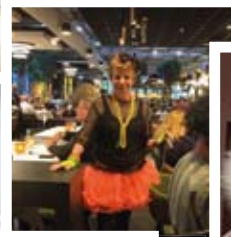
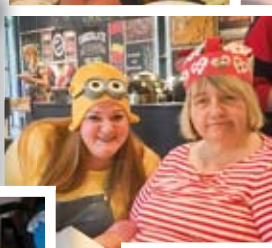
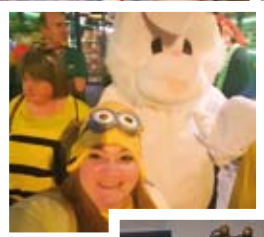
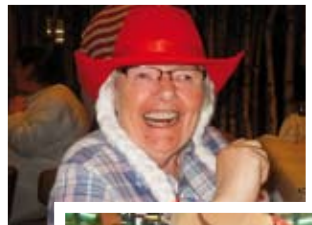
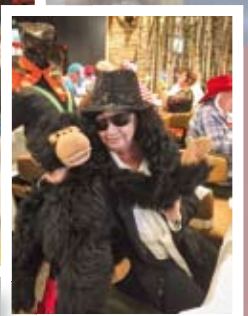
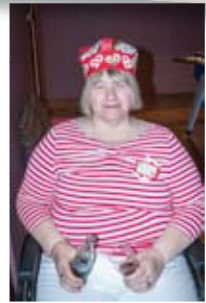
Linda & Alex







# Fancy Dress Party!!!!!!





## Day 7 - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September

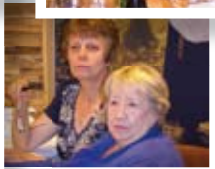
Hi, today was my day to be Group Leader, and following the fancy dress party last night, we had a long lie. After a later breakfast we had the Group photo taken. As a joke all the carers and some of the VIP's buddy strapped their fingers together in sympathy with Martin. Once we had loaded the bus we headed to Maastricht for the afternoon.

The Jumbulance dropped us off under the Kennedy Bridge and we walked into the middle of Maastricht. Many of the Group took the opportunity to do some shopping, cloggs, tulip bulbs and Holland hats were all purchased, while dodging the heavy rain showers.

After lunch we explored some more, crossing the river and finding a chocolate shop, but the weather didn't get any better so we made our way back to the bus. The plan had been to have the game of football when we got back, but the rain meant it was postponed, so Adam and I went to the swimming pool.

After another excellent evening meal I passed the bell over to Haig. Then the Group took part in the trip quiz. Muriel & Lyndy won, and Adam & I tied for last place with Ian & Brian. It was another good day.

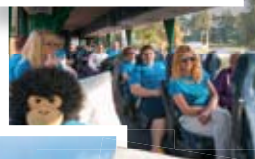
Euan & Adam











## Day 9 - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September

Last day at the hotel. Up early for breakfast before loading the bus with our luggage. We left early to head to Kinderdijk to see the windmills, have lunch and have a game of football. Unfortunately when we got there the weather wasn't too good so we decided to have a snack lunch on the bus before venturing out. We all headed out in the rain to have a closer look at the windmills and we had to postpone the football due to the weather. However we had a great time and the snack lunch was great on the bus.

We boarded the bus once again to head for the ferry. Gordon, Pauline and Lesley went off to get our passports checked and get our rooms allocated while we all got our overnight bags ready to board the ferry. We got into our rooms for a fresher up before our evening meal. We all met in the bar for a quick drink before our meal at 7.30pm. The meal was great on the ferry with a fantastic choice of food which everyone enjoyed. I passed the bell onto tomorrow's leader Glenise then had a look around the ferry's shops to buy some additional gifts. Some VIPs retired for the night while others gathered in the show lounge to enjoy a few drinks and a few dances. It was easy to see Fran had a fantastic time on the dance floor dancing with other company and was joined by Ian, Ewan, Christine, Glenise and some carers especially Brian dancing with Ian's monkey to the jungle book! A fantastic day and night had by every VIP to end our last night of our holiday. Thank you to everyone who has helped over the last ten days.

Margaret and Dawn xx





## Day 10 - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Lorna & I woke very early on the ferry as it was our last day and on our way home to Hawick. Truth is it was extremely early as we had forgotten to put our clocks back one hour, so we were showered, dressed hair done, packed and sat staring at each other by 5.43am!!! It was a beautiful morning, and everyone was on time to disembark, except me. I was looking for Lorna and she was looking for me. Ferry staff are very helpful and it's nice to hear your own language as you step on home turf. There was a really thick sea mist that took about an hour to drive off into a very fair day.

We all decided to have lunch on the go as there was one more task for a VIP's wish list, first stop was Langholm for a delicious ice cream, I had the bell, gave it a good loud ring to announce the next stop would be 100 yards away by the riverside car park, for folks, the long awaited, football match. Russell's face lit up and a great loud cheer went up, the weather was perfect. Boys against Girls, Russell was in goals. Lyndy was in goals for the girls and saved a good few balls going past. Halftime power drinks were given by Gordon and a quick group mop. The teams swapped sides and off they went again seemed to get their second wind, Russell in goal again and did some marvelous saves and kicked out to his team. There was only one slight injury as Dawn was running for the ball, fell over but did a marvelous commando roll as if she had been highly trained.

Full time, off the pitch a bit muddy but a great game and a winning score of 5-for Russell's team and the boys and an excellent effort by the girls, 2 goals. Back on the bus and the last leg of the journey. I handed the bell back to Gordon and he had the mike to give his thanks to everyone on the journey, cheers for the driver, Pauline nurse, carers and VIP's for our complete trust.

Well here we are arrived back at the Haugh and there are all our family and friends waiting for us. All that's left to be done is unload the bus say our thank yous and cheerios, give out hugs to all our new friends and go home with our stories & lovely memories and think of the achievement's we made. As an individual and as a group as over the next months it sinks in about our fabulous trip. It can't come quick enough the reunion where we meet up and relive it all again.

Glenise & Lorna

## Readers Digest Version:

Been somewhere. Got up. Got dressed. Got off the ferry. Got on the bus. Scoffed some cake. Got dropped off in car park. Everybody's gone. F@\*%ed off Home.





# "Special & Simple" Happiness Scale Assessment Results:

## The Lovely Martin:

To be read in conjunction with the Happiness Scale.

Achieved mainly '10' usually after Creme Brulee or when winning, in a clean sweep on Play Your Cards Right!

Slipped into a '5' following his Princess Pudding.

Several episodes of '4' when his pain threshold dropped.

On the whole an '8' was achieved throughout the trip.

This assesment has been carried out by people who have achieved '6' on a regular basis.

**Pauline & Lesley**

## brendan:

To be read in Conjunction with the Kelly Happiness Scale!!!!

Disappointing results with '2' a regular occurrence, with a fair scattering of '6'.

'10' was achieved when dcieving a V.I.P. and causing confusion on departure dates.

'5' was witnessed briefly, ver very briefly, infact it was nearly missed at 12:05:48 - 12:05:49 on the 11th September at the Zoo.

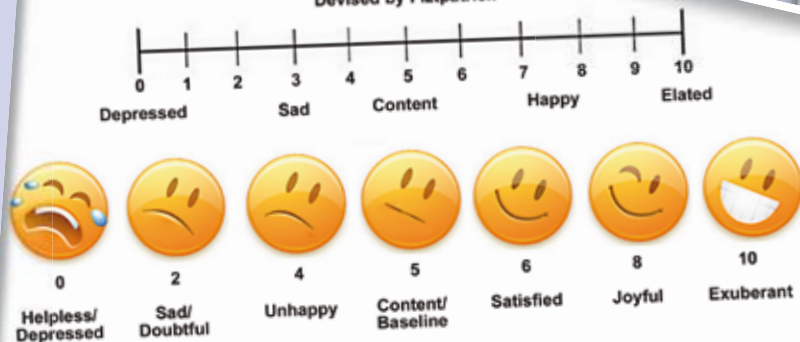
'0' may be achieved with some effort by 3pm on Sunday.

This assesment has been carried out by people who have achieved '6' on a regular basis.

**Pauline & Lesley**

## HAPPINESS SALE

Devised by Fitzpatrick



## KELLY HAPPINESS SALE

Devised by Grumpitis



**The Lovely Martin:**  
10, 10 & 5

**brendan:**  
10 & 5

After eighteen months of planning our group of 23 left the Haugh on Friday 8th September on the stroke of 10 00 hrs on the first leg of our 2017 holiday. A trouble free journey to Hull saw us booking in for the ferry at 1600hrs. A great night was had by all on board. Our outward journey was much less exhausting with only a 3 hr drive to our new destination in Heerlen rather than the 12 hr journey to Austria. The Van Der Valk Hotel our accomadation for the week was ideal. The facilities in the hotel were superb, large bedrooms with well equipped bathrooms and showers, a large swimming pool with sauna, and food of the highest quality and choice, a lovely estate to take a walk, and very friendly staff. During the week the group enjoyed a variety of full and half day excursions which included an leisurely boat trip. Herleen was ideally situated with no long journeys to our chosen destinations hence much more relaxing.

In all the holiday was a resounding success with 10 very happy and contented VIP'S returned safely to their families on the Sunday. The success of the trip is down to the following. A wonderfull group of VIP'S. The commitment to the VIP'S by the group carers. The superb accomadation we enjoyed. The interesting places we visited. The faultless driving capabilities and their nothing to much trouble attitude and group involment of Brendan and Martin. Our own Florence Nightingale Pauline who tended to all who required her skills. To Lesley for taking all the pictures and compiling this diary.

All in all a superb trip with happy memories for our VIP'S and I am sure we will talk about for a long time.

Regards to you all.

**Gordon**





**Thank You**  
to all who helped make  
this possible!