



The Rambler-December 2013

WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dear Santa,

I hope you and the reindeer are happy and keeping warm in this cold weather!

I have been very good this year and was wondering for Christmas could I have something from the following list ?

Walking shoes

Walking bag

Socks

Waterproof Coat

Deposit for Nijmegen

Thank you very much x x

**British Dutch
Walking Fellowship**

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**Friday 6 December
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Time Until Nijmegen 2014:

220 Days

Letter from The Secretary

Fellow members

As we come within reach of the year end, I felt it rather fitting for me to say a few words. For me I feel we end the year with a good deal of satisfaction and a fair bit of expectancy.

I am particularly satisfied with the way the BDWF community has worked this year and in a supportive manner. Praise must go to our first aid team who were out in force at RAF Cosford in April, at RAF Lyneham 2 day walk and training walks in Swindon. The support staff who have worked conscientiously in Nijmegen and the walkers themselves who coped with the searing heat.

My expectancy is how many newcomers we will acquire next year as well as returning members. I get anxious each year and really should not worry, it always works out well. Already I am told we shall have an adult 40k team from 'Up North' and led by Mick Abbott with relatively a few new faces with some skilled hands for good measure.

Earlier in the year I became a Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) leader and I am hopeful of some students taking up the Nijmegen challenge. Swindon students are already in heightened state of excitement and it is not just about the walking but for Christmas and if you work in a school you would be in agreement with me.

Whilst searching on the internet for nothing in particular, I came across this verse which sums up all that I wanted to say.

'Christmas is full of shiny things that sparkle, gleam and glow; These holiday pleasures dazzle us, and yet, deep down, we know... that Christmas has its special gifts, but our year-round joy depends on the cherished people in our lives, Our family and Our friends.

All I want for Christmas is to have everyone in my life be healthy feel loved, and especially to know the reason for the season!

Love and hugs to all..

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your family.

Herman Boston
Group Secretary

Ps. Hope to see you all in Nijmegen 2014 with your new walking feet

Application Forms and ECHI Cards

It is that time of year again when application forms have arrived in your inbox! If you haven't already received them, you should soon be receiving membership, Nijmegen application, Clothing and medical forms for Nijmegen 2014, sent to you by Herman.

If you do not receive your copy soon please let us know. This year we have amended all the forms so please pay attention when completing them. It is necessary for everyone to complete the forms whether this is their first time or whether it is their 98th time!

So that we can plan for Nijmegen 2014, All support staff **must** signify their intention to partake in Nijmegen 2014 by **returning their forms no later than 31 December 2013.**

To all our members in the UK. While completing your application forms you may want to check the date on your EHIC card. It is expected that 3.5 million cards expired during 2013.

It is free to renew these and only take around ten days to arrive. If you don't already have one then you can apply for one on the NHS website. Your first card is also free.

The website for this is

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/EHIC/Pages/about-the-ehic.aspx>

Please take care if you Google for a website as one of the top listed sites charges £20!

You can apply for renewal within 6 months of your card expiring, and you receive your new card in about 10 working days.

This article is quite helpful <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/travel/free-ehic-card>

A Huge Pot of Gold!

A huge thanks to all members who supported the "Grow Your Tenner Scheme" operated by Local Giving. Just by paying either your membership and/or Nijmegen Deposit via this route we raised an amazing additional £595.06 with a further £147.50 to come from those of you who also Gift Aided your donation.

Under the scheme every £10 donated got matched and became £20 or £22.50 with Gift Aid. An amazing £500,000 went into the pot and 75% of that money has already been claimed, benefiting many worthy causes and charities including the BDWF.

If you paid your membership via the local giving scheme, please annotate your membership form as John Nicholson has kept a record of those who has paid.

Find us at <http://localgiving.com/charity/bdwf>.

At the time of printing there were still funds available at local giving to be able to "Grow your Tenner". If you have time, and your membership fee (£10) available, then it is worth seeing if the option is still available.

Walker Liaison Reporting

Over the next few months I'll be including a series of articles in the Rambler with regard to key member-feedback issues as included on your feedback forms from our 2013 Nijmegen 4-Days event.

All current members will have received the feedback analysis from our 2013 event. A copy of this analysis has also already been forwarded to the De Dennen management and provides a basis for the ongoing discussion between them and members of the BDWF committee. A monthly exchange of e-mail has also been re-established between our BDWF Secretary, Herman Boston, and the De Dennen management and we thank them for agreeing to this to our mutual benefit.

These articles in the Rambler will each month highlight one or possibly two issues that have already been or will be actioned by our committee on your behalf.

There is no sense in apportioning blame for past oversights but to use any past shortcomings to determine corrective actions for the future.

So to this month's issue:

Cleaning of the Sportshall Sleeping Accommodation Areas

This has often been an area of adverse feedback and while it has been fully warranted to the point of members checking morning and night, we have not always helped the situation by poor commitment on our part. Whilst the majority of members have done as requested and put their bags etc onto their beds to allow cleaning this has not always been the case nor has the cleaning been carried out. Often escalation to our De Dennen interface has also been recorded but has had patchy response to say the least.

However, in 2013 De Dennen not only provided new and additional plastic Refuse Bins in the sleeping areas but also additional replacement bags under those bins. Despite this the refuse bins were left overflowing yet the replacement bags still left unused under the bins.

Similarly, in the past, the excessive discarded paper, leaflets and wrappers etc. left around the beds has resulted in the cleaners refusing to complete the cleaning due to this level of thoughtlessness. The most striking instance of this last year was a wallet being reported to our BDWF Control Office as stolen only to be eventually found amongst such rubbish around the beds.

We ask for your full co-operation in minimising this waste by disposing of unwanted items in the bins provided and, before the bins are overflowing, to exchange such bags with the replacement from under the bins. The full bag can be left securely knotted alongside the bin for daily collection.

This simple courtesy to all other members of the BDWF contingent also provides the Control Office with an uncontested escalation if the cleaning has not been carried out by the De Dennen cleaning personnel. If we extend this courtesy then please escalate any shortcomings to the

Walker Liaison Reporting (continued)

the Control Office as they arise and not just on the feedback forms after the event is over – thank you.

Preparing your following day's walking kit, the night before that curtailed night's sleep, and a simple tidy up of the area around your bed goes a long way to achieving the courtesy requested. Then by just putting all your remaining gear onto the bed before leaving for the coach provides the easy access for the cleaners to do their job.

Obviously the key impact of any non-cleaning is during the walking days whilst at Nijmegen but is probably more visible when emptying the Sportshall on the Saturday morning after the walk is over. Everyone is always in a rush to get their gear onto the coaches ready for departure and the simple courtesy of clearing up after oneself is often forgotten. Unsurprising, at this time the quantities of unwanted material seem to increase exponentially. Once again we ask for your co-operation especially on this Saturday morning as the last thing that we want to do is delay the coaches to ensure that this has been done.

We as a committee would like to thank those members who remained behind after the coaches had left for cleaning and sweeping up and leaving the Sportshall in a far more acceptable level of cleanliness before our ultimate departure.

Finally, please help us to help you. Having undertaken the actions that we request, please escalate any shortcomings to the Control Office so that appropriate action can be taken to resolve the issue.

Roy Hayward

Walker Liaison.

Mail: walkerliaisonbdwf@gmail.com

Forthcoming Events 2014:

January 2014

25 - 26th - Stonehenge Stomp. For more information visit the Amesbury walkers Web site <http://amesburywalkers.webplus.net/page7.html> They also have a variety of other walks listed which are definitely worth a look.

April 2014

5th - Fjoertoer Egmond, Terschelling, Netherlands , for information contact Caroline Kok. bdwfinfo@gmail.com

26th - 27th 33rd RAF 2 Day March For more information please visit the website www.rafwarma.org.uk and click on RAF two day march.

May 2014

3rd - 4th The Scottish Garelochhead 2 Day Marches 2014 for further information please see the following web site WWW.scottish2daymarches.co.uk

24 - 25th RAF Lyneham 2 day March. For more details contact Herman Boston Tel: 07936 390500 or Email: hermies@btinternet.com

As soon as dates are available for more of the regular walks I shall let you know.

There is also an excellent website detailing walks available in the Netherlands - <http://www.wandelkalender.nl/2013/meerdaagse.html>

If you know of other walks that our members would be interested in, please let us know - contact details are at the back of this newsletter.

If you are going on your own walk and would like company please let us know and we will put the word out for you.

Birthdays

British

- 1 Ann Oliver; Penny Greenman
- 2 Vincent Charles
- 3 Jeff Hurley; Peter James
- 4 Leon Hooper
- 6 Barney McAlister; Matthew Wroe
- 8 Judith Edwards; Joshua Birchall
- 9 Colleen Hammersley; Doug Davidson;
Chris Haynes
- 10 Christopher Bolton; Gabriel
Heppenstall-Harris
- 11 Susan Tuck; James Roome
- 12 Almuth Prowse; Shirley Brown;
Alex Moss; Harry Bohn
- 13 Garry Solomon
- 15 Stephen Adams
- 16 Mary Keane; Fay Mabel
- 18 Martin Dean
- 20 Paul Mutton
- 21 Debbie Dumelow
- 22 David Paynter; Emily Taylor; Shelby
Ashmore
- 23 Helen McAlister; John Bye;
Russell Elliott; Charles Delamere
- 24 Colin Oyston; Amy Waites; Trudy Lillis;
Jonathon Clover; Rose Smith
- 25 Rachel Perry
- 26 Christine Dalton; Simon Jewers
- 27 Sue Gray; Suzi Bansenga;
Madelaine Lee
- 28 Gillian Mogg
- 29 Les Laydon
- 31 Phil Morehen; Oliver Wyer

Nederlanders

- 3 G Kersten; Susan Cobb; Frans Vernooy;
Isis du Croix
- 4 Diny van Heeckeren-Meiberg;
Michael Vlietstra
- 5 Peter van Alten
- 7 Els Blankenstein; Bart Vogels
- 9 Hein Ubachs
- 10 Raymond Kievit
- 16 Jan Weijmer
- 20 Trudy Esser
- 21 Christian Bos
- 22 JWJ Klein
- 23 Angelique Van den Berg
- 26 P Braat
- 28 C Joosten
- 29 Nellie De veer Van Venrooy; M Van Noord;
Erik Metselaar
- 31 Milanka Terlouw-Markovic

*Many happy returns to
you all*

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The British Dutch Walking Fellowship (BDWF) was founded out of the BT Nijmegen group in 2003. The club has no political or sectarian interests, and is non – profit seeking. Membership is open to anyone 12 years and over.

As a member, we want to make sure that you get the best from your relationship with us and that means keeping you informed.

Any news items to be included in the next newsletter should be with Kate by **Friday 27th December 2013**

Contributions are always welcome. Remember, every member has a voice and this is the ideal medium to have your say

Katie Elliman
Editor