



The Rambler-October 2013

HOW MANY OF YOU WILL BE COMING TO NIJMEGEN IN 2014?



Picture of the quiz run by Caroline and Cindy. A fab time was had by all!

**British Dutch
Walking Fellowship**

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Email Addresses

As of today our email addresses are changing!

If you wish to get in touch please use the following:

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Katie Elliman

KLM flights to Nijmegen 2014

Having just booked my flight with KLM for next year's Vierdaagse (early or what), I was advised that KLM had changed their baggage rules for some European flights booked on or after 14th May 2013.

All details are available via the KLM website www.klm.com but essentially if you are not a 'Flying Blue' member or have not paid for a fully flexible ticket then you are only entitled to hand baggage if you are travelling as an Economy Class passenger on a European flight. The current cost of 1 item of check-in baggage is €15 (£13) and I'm assuming each way.

However, it's free to become a 'Flying Blue' member ('Flying Blue Ivory' is the introductory level) and all you need to do is register beforehand via the 'Flying Blue' link on main KLM web site. Once your application is accepted you will receive your temporary membership card identifying your membership number. Quote this membership number when you **next** book a flight and 1 item of check-in baggage (maximum 23Kg) is automatically your free baggage allowance. Once the first flight has been booked you will be sent a full membership card.

So, if you intend to fly KLM in the near future (especially for your Nijmegen 2014 participation) then there are savings to be made by becoming a 'Flying Blue' member at the earliest opportunity. This 'Flying Blue' membership also applies to KLM's partner airlines such as Air France etc.

There are other benefits to be had such as building up 'Skymiles' with this membership. Full details are again on the KLM website.

I trust the information above may save some of our members and their families and friends a few Euros.

Roy Hayward

Walker Liaison

BDWF Social Meeting

It's time for a BDWF Social gathering at the Spotted Cow, Coate, Swindon, SN3 6AA. We will be meeting up from 19:00 (7:00pm) on Wednesday 16th October and tables have been reserved for us. The pub provides extremely good value meals and reasonable drinks, so come along and enjoy yourself. To see a sample menu or for more information about the venue visit: <http://www.hungryhorse.co.uk/>

The event is open to all adult BDWF members and any spouses, partners, boy/girl friends or any hangers-on! Under 18's are welcome to attend if accompanied by a parent. A charge of £1 per person, payable on the night, will be made and all attendees will receive a raffle entry. All profits will be donated to the BDWF.

Hope you can all make it.

RSVP to Gina Coltman at: 1staidbdwf@gmail.com

Your Letters

Each year we receive lots of feedback from you all, it is all very much appreciated, we look at each form and try to address every comment. This year we received a very detailed feedback form and thought we would share it with you.

BDWF Nijmegen 2013 Feedback form

1=very satisfied 2=satisfied 3=not sure 4=dissatisfied 5=very dissatisfied

1. Information received throughout the year and before the event 2

2. Accommodation 4

For your attention: If BDWF pays for staff to sweep the sleeping areas then we need a refund. No sweeping took place from the moment we arrived to the moment we left. Several of us kept a very beady eye on the state of the floor and placed small sweepable items in various places to see if they moved – they did not of course. I do not mind too much about the un-swept floor except for the fact that many people do actually spend time putting everything on top of the beds to allow sweeping to take place.

3. Catering 4

Catering for vegetarians was poor overall. Meat-eaters generally received two large portions of meat (protein) per meal – vegetarians received only one portion of protein and even then the protein content was often very small. When I asked for more the staff said they could not give me more. The vegetarian offerings were not very tasty anyway, in fact they were sometimes unpleasant. The portions of vegetables received was also disappointing – one small floret of cauliflower is two florets short of “one of your five a day”, and five green beans likewise only a third of “one of your five a day”. The staff said they could not give me more, fortunately for me friends gave me their portions. I think the soup on the first night had chicken stock in it.

The Tuesday evening meal was tomato, tomato, tomato – not well thought out at all.

The fruit provision at breakfast, however, was excellent. There was usually a selection of four different fruit – I quickly learned to take one of each, to make up for the stingy portions of vegetables at our evening meal – perhaps we should only have taken one fruit each but I did not hear about any restrictions on the amount of fruit one could take.

Your Letters (continued)

We had to laugh at the determination of the breakfast staff to please the British (and our Dutch walkers to boot) by making us all form long and time-wasting queues for tea and coffee. We suggested a few times to them to move the tea and coffee to the other side of the table so that people who only wanted tea or coffee, and who did not want any breakfast/lunch-making goods, could simply go and get it.

The queues for the evening meal were very, very long, and people had to queue outside. It was a problem for people who had already had too much sun. What would have happened if it had rained? We need a better plan for future years.

I have catering information packs from the Vegetarian Society and am happy to provide one or two to give to our caterers, whoever they are.

It would also be good to know whether the eggs provided are from free-range hens – outside free-range, not inside.

4. Transport (use of the coach to and from Nijmegen plus shuttle service) 2

Danny and Pete continue to provide a good and friendly service. The stop-off at the chocolate shop on our return to Swindon is always intriguing – the chocolates are more expensive than in the shops in England; and the facilities very poor. Why do we stop there?

The shuttle service starts one and a half hours after we complete our walk, so we walk to the bus station and get a bus to Dennenstraat – €2 each per day.

5. Services provided by Office Support (Night & Day staff) 1

Moira and Marion provided an excellent service – Marion is always so welcoming and friendly and helpful, however tired she herself may be feeling. Moira was efficient as ever. Someone ensured the loo roll in the ladies loos never ran out! Theresa woke us up with a nice smile! Thank you to them all.

6. Services provided by Roadside Support 1

Always on the look out for walkers, always on hand to offer help and to give hugs!

Your Letters (continued)

7. Services provided by First Aid Support Not used

8. What worked best?

The people, as always.

The Saturday “ceremony” seemed shorter, and better for it.

The wonderful little gifts that we found on our beds after each walk – a real treat, better than any medal! Thank you.

No rain

9. Potential improvements

Catering – as above

The tap in the ladies’ washroom – it does not work like a conventional tap, it is now a mini-shower. I have shown it to Henk and asked him to get it fixed.

Thank you.

Forthcoming Events 2013:

October 2013

13th - RAF WARMA Winter Walk. <http://www.rafwarma.org.uk/>

30th - 55th Swiss Army Night March <http://www.rafwarma.org.uk/overseas.htm> (See attached article)

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 Phillip McGaw
- 2 Martyn Charity; Victoria Charity;
Karen Gray
- 3 Helen Tuck; Richard Morris
- 4 Lenny Goldsmith
- 5 Matthew Perry; Vincent Sherry
- 6 Tanya Moody
- 7 Beverley Goodman; Mike Strong; Beth
Simmons
- 8 Edward Hodson
- 10 Anne Welburn-Sutton
- 11 Ann Kirby; John Stratton;
Thomas Gallagher; William
Reddington-smith
- 12 Geri Jackson
- 13 Matthew Jepson
- 14 Matthew Jepson; Harry Dean; Zane
Wozencroft
- 15 Richard Elliott
- 16 Julie Austin
- 17 Mark Greenhalgh; Ian Paton
- 18 Terry Kirby
- 19 Colin Jackson
- 20 Peter Sinclair
- 21 Stephen Mogg; Edward Smith
- 22 Jonathon Pill
- 23 Charles Coldrey; James Stevens;
Peter Armitage
- 24 Harry Lewis
- 25 Charlotte Toone; Oliver Thorne
- 27 Frank Coltman; David Mugford;
Joseph Ashley; Morgan Blunt
- 28 Andrew Bowman
- 29 Mo Leach; Graham Darkins;
ia Watson
- 30 Phillipa Hambridge; Glen Logan
- 31 Christine Brand

Nederlanders

- 2 Aaf Snoek; Anija Bemelmans;
Josey Bertrand; M Stoffels; Hilde Van Noord
- 3 Wilma Ludema
- 4 Wim Vogels
- 5 Henny.J Visser
- 7 Arie Bruyns
- 8 Piet Nelis
- 9 Petra Kolen-Rouschop
- 11 Henk ten Kate
- 13 Andre van der Last
- 15 J Schreuder; Linda Plomp
- 16 Jacqueline Manintveld
- 19 Truus Mantel de Roij; Joop Ludema;
Diederique Kemperink
- 24 Dirk Terlouw; Elsbeth Huffmeijer
- 28 L W De Knijf-Okken; Franklin Schalk
- 29 R S Ringnalda; Richard Evers
- 31 Anja van der Wilk; Bas Graus

Lyd-

*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 25th October 2013**

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

Katie Elliman
Editor