



The Rambler-September 2011

Photos!

Did you know that you can see a large collection of photos from Nijmegen 2011 on our website? Here are a few examples.



If you have any photos you would like to add then let us know.

Thank you to Roy for finding these photos.

Only **318** days until the 96th Nijmegen
Vierdaagse.
(On date of Publication)

British Dutch Walking Fellowship

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**Friday 2nd
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Feedback

Preparation for Nijmegen 2012 hasn't yet started, though we are still working through all the feedback we have received. The committee meets back for the first time at the end of September where all the information will be put together, we can then focus on all the points and try and improve on 2011.

There is still time for you to get your feedback form to Roy Hayward. If you haven't done so already, if you don't have a feedback form let me know and I shall get one to you.

This is your chance to let us know what you liked, didn't like, would change and would keep how it is.

Weblog of Johan Willemstein

Tuesday, 2 August 2011

Things have quietened down again and there is little left in Nijmegen to remind us of the festive 95th edition of our Four Days Marches. The Wedren is once again a car park and Heumensoord is simply a forest. We at headquarters are unpacking and tidying away the last boxes, answering the remaining questions from walkers and writing the first evaluation reports.

But what a wonderful week it was again! How we enjoyed it all together - walkers, organisation and spectators. And how quickly it went by.

Perfect walking weather with almost all showers falling in between the marches. No unpleasant incidents. A dry and extremely festive entry on Friday afternoon. Or - in the words of the Mayor of Nijmegen - a smooth Four Days Marches.

And what a great start the sponsored walk project saw this year. A good € 189,653 was pledged in one and a half months by people sponsoring 259 different walkers. Those walkers have discovered the convenience and benefits of the website www.devierdaagseponsorloop.nl and are, together with us, calling upon all walkers to join in next year. To the 259 walkers and all their sponsors, I would like to say: thank you very much and congratulations on the result you have achieved. 128 charities have let us know that they are delighted with your efforts.

As far as I'm concerned, the only blot on an otherwise perfect edition was the half-empty stadium during the Flag Parade. We have been working hard on turning the Flag Parade into an attractive show for young and old for a few years now. I think we have achieved great results and this year's was a fine show too, which was also confirmed by the numerous compliments we received. I do realise that everyone has their own taste, but I must draw the conclusion that despite the great effort put in and contrary to our expectations, the turnout was low (around 6000 attendees) and the stadium half-empty (around 12,000 seats). Back when the Flag Parade was still held on Monday evening, we often heard from walkers that they couldn't/didn't want to attend, because they had to be up early on Tuesday for the walk. This was one of the arguments for moving the event to Sunday evening a few years ago. There has been no noticeable effect on the number of attendees, despite the good deal of advance publicity and despite the fact that over 17,000 walkers had already registered on Sunday. Neither have ticket sales to non-walkers changed noticeably. The only conclusion we can draw is therefore that the yield (in terms of attendee numbers) does not balance out against the massive amount of energy put into preparations every year, neither does it offset the associated costs. We will therefore be reviewing the opening ceremony's location and format this autumn.

Nonetheless, we are left with wonderful memories of the 95th edition. Many congratulations to those who completed the marches successfully. And to those who had to withdraw: there's another chance next year - if at first you don't succeed, try, try again!

A lot of you will no doubt already be on holiday or about to set off. Time to have a rest and recover from the exertion, and toast the fine end once again, before gingerly heading back out to walk again in September. I wish everyone a pleasant holiday and hope to see many of you back out there again afterwards, both at home and abroad.

<http://www.4daagse.nl/nl/nieuws/weblog-marsleider.html>

Cotswold Outdoor Ltd.

This year at the AGM we were able to confirm that the offer open to all BDWF members has been tried and tested. So after you have rested your feet you may want to treat yourself to a few new odds and ends, or maybe a treat for someone else at Christmas, before the “walking season” starts again.

Below is the article written for the Rambler last year by Roy Hayward which outlines how the offer works and what it is!

By now you will have received an e-mail with attachment detailing the Affiliation (discount) Code that has been re-negotiated with Cotswold Outdoor Ltd and of how to use that code. All details contained in the joint letter. However, to complete an action raised at the AGM in Nijmegen, we also committed to include information in the Rambler as a permanent record.

The letter details how the affiliation code can be used - it's headed with both BDWF and Cotswold logos and we now have our own Cotswold Account Manager. We associated a copy of Cotswold's terms and conditions for the use of the code, along with a list of their current stores.

Importantly, with this new Affiliate Code, you can now use it nationally at any of Cotswold's existing outlets, by mail order (phone/fax) and on-line. This should now help members who do not yet have a Cotswold Outdoor Ltd outlet in their vicinity.

Registration is required at checkout and using the Affiliation Code / barcode is the proof of entitlement to use the code.

To access the correct price structure you will need to provide the Affiliation Code when making your purchases. The Affiliation Code offers you 15% (the maximum that Cotswold now offer) off the full retail value of current stock items and can be used to purchase goods both shown online and listed in the Cotswold Outdoor Summer and Winter Catalogue ranges as available. The Affiliation Code is a non-credit facility and all goods have to be paid for at the point of purchase.

Certain exclusions apply to the discounted price structure and are identified in the letter.

All orders placed using the mail order and online services for delivery within the UK will incur a carriage charge of £5.00. Any orders placed requiring urgent UK or overseas delivery will be subject to the relevant delivery charges that apply at point of order.

To provide some limited security on the use of the BDWF Affiliation Code, we have deliberately not identified the code in this article. Both the Affiliation code itself and the bar code are contained in the letter already circulated. If you have not received the letter or misplaced it you can request another copy from the Group Secretary (details in the last section of the Rambler).

Roy Hayward
Chairman

Operation Market Garden Commemorations, The Netherlands

2011 marks the 67th anniversary of Operation Market Garden, and events will be taking place in the Netherlands from 16-18 September, including a ceremony at the Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery on 17 September at 11.00 am.

As part of these commemorations, from 12 to 30 September 2011, an exhibition about the Commission and its work will also be on display in

Renkum Town Hall
Generaal Urquhartlaan 4,
Oosterbeek

Opening hours will be from Monday to Thursday from 8.30 to 16.00 and on Fridays from 8.30 to 12.00

Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery

Country: Netherlands; **Locality:** Gelderland.

Work to replace the brick paving at the entrance of Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery commenced on 21st July 2011 and was expected to take 3 weeks to complete. Access was maintained, either through the front entrance or a temporary entrance situated to the right of the main entrance.

The city of Arnhem is in the east of the Netherlands, the village of Oosterbeek is 7kms west of Arnhem. The cemetery address is: - Van Limburg Stirumweg 6861 WL Oosterbeek Netherlands
GPS Location is:- N 51 59 35 E 05 50 54

Historical Information:

Following the Normandy landings of June 1944, the Allied advance through northern Europe was extraordinarily rapid and on 11 September 1944, the Second Army entered the Netherlands just south of Eindhoven, the first Allied troops to set foot in the country since its fall in May 1940. Their next aim was to cross the Rhine before the Germans had time to reorganise after their recent setbacks, securing crossings over the rivers and canals that stood in their path at Grave, Nijmegen and Arnhem. 'Operation Market Garden' would involve the United States 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, the Commonwealth 1st Airborne Division and the Polish Parachute Brigade. On 17 September 1944, the 1st Airborne Division began landing west of Arnhem, but German resistance, bad weather and problems with supplies and reinforcements led to heavy losses, and their objectives were not taken. They were forced to form a perimeter at Oosterbeek which they held stubbornly until 25 September, when it was decided to withdraw the remnants of the division across the lower Rhine. Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery contains the graves of most of those killed during the September landings, and many of those killed in later fighting in the area. There are now 1,680 Commonwealth servicemen of the Second World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 245 of the burials are unidentified and two casualties are commemorated by special memorials. There are also 73 Polish, three Dutch and three non-war (former Commission employees) graves in the cemetery.

Operation Market Garden Commemorations, The Netherlands (continued)

The number of identified casualties, including Foreign and Non-World War graves in CWGC care is 1,514 (1,763 burials).

There is an excellent short article on 'Operation Market Garden – the Battle for Arnhem' on the CWGC web site – it includes references to Nijmegen, Oosterbeek, Groesbeek Memorial in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Mook War Cemetery together with directions to these places via many of the towns that we pass through on our 4 Days Walk.

Information taken from:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission web site: www.cwgc.org

Operation Market Garden: www.cwgc.org/admin/files/cwgc_arnhem.pdf

We hope it's of interest.

Your letters

A picture of Jacqui Wakelam in her BDWF orange polo with the inflatable zimmer frame Herman Boston bought her for her 50th Birthday. It's taken in Wasdale in the Lake District just after we had both completed all the 330 Wainwright Fells.



Story and picture both from Nick Wakelam

Holiday Time

It seems to me that a lot of our members, like Jacqui above, need a break, well at least their feet do! It has been one long walk after another recently – Alkmaar in June, Nijmegen in July, Dodentocht in August. I think it is time you put your feet up and treated them to a well-earned rest.

It is time to treat your toes to a pedicure and your legs to a massage. You could even try a garra rufa fish spa treatment!

Forthcoming Events 2011:

September 2011

21st - 24th The Great Barrow Walk (Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk). Start: The Academy Health and Fitness Centre. 26 miles per day. <http://greatbarrowchallenge.co.uk/>

25th Circuit of Bath Walk for more information on this walk visit <http://www.julianhouse.org.uk/support/circuitbath.html>

October 2011

9th RAF Warma Winter Walk <http://www.rafwarma.org.uk/wwflier.htm>

If you know of other walks that our members would be interested in, please drop me a note or give me a call. My details are at the back of this newsletter.

There is also a wonderful website detailing walks available in the Netherlands - <http://www.wandelkalender.nl/2011/meerdaagse.html>

Birthdays

British

- 1 Stephen Dalton; Ian Merriman
- 2 Brian Young; Debra Goodman
- 3 Josh Williamson
- 4 Mark Gordon; Bethany Whitehouse
- 5 Elise Simmons; Karen Pearce; Claire Newman
- 6 Nicola Warrick
- 7 Laura "Red" Chapman; Ciara Sakar
- 8 Jim Nelson
- 10 James Phillips; Ann Worboys
- 11 Carl Wood
- 12 David Price
- 13 Jack McMullan
- 14 Shirley Delvin; Darren Gray; Dawn Whitby
- 15 Jack Cartlidge
- 16 Katie Elliman; Christopher Rossiter
- 17 David "Vlad" Patey; Hollie Ricketts
- 18 John Moir; Helen Smith; Anthony Webber
- 19 Graham Antrobus
- 21 Rebecca Garth; Kurt Murfin
- 22 Hamish Gibberd
- 23 Ken Redman; Mike Toulouse
- 24 Zoe Chapman; Jeanne Carter; A.H. Goodwin; Brian Harvey
- 26 Eddie Everett; Helen Elizabeth Stewart; Sarah Jayne-Wood; Marie Ward
- 27 Angela Pawllysyn
- 28 Nigel Jones
- 29 Duncan Robertson

Nederlanders

- 1 Marscha van Turnhout
- 4 Margreet Ten Have
- 6 Wendy Smak
- 7 N.van Wooming
- 8 H.J.M. Bult
- 12 J Heddes
- 13 Ben Westrate
- 15 Gerrit van der Berkt
- 19 Sonja van der Hoogt
- 20 A.K.M Bourma
- 23 A van den Braak; Jan van Oosten; Stephen van der Last
- 25 Sylvia Schweig
- 26 Willy Meer
- 27 J Heerbeek
- 29 A Bevers

Many happy returns to you all

British Dutch Walking Fellowship

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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 30th September 2011**

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