

2011 Border Holiday Group Trip Diary



**the
Border Holiday Group**

European Holidays for the Sick & Disabled of Southern Scotland

Registered Charity Numbers: 1099217 & SC038524



*Vern, Gillian, Brian, Derek, Blair, Iain, Gordon, Brendan
Glenise, Elliot, Norah, Pauline, Dennis, Lorna, Laura
Peter, Marina, Pete, Elaine, Stuart, Alison, Lesley*

*The Border Holiday Group
would like to thank the
following people for making the
trip possible:*

*Mertoun WRI, S McCain,
Mrs A Whillans, Mrs Hughes,
The Border Club,
St Marys Church Women's Guild,
Greg Dalglish and all those who run the
Half Marathons,
Mr & Mrs Douglas, K Wilson, Mr Scott,
Class of 1970 School Reunion,
Eventide Homes,
St Boswells WRI, Hawick Rotary Club,
Mayfield Bar Social Club,
Waverly Housing,
Turnbells,
Waverly Bar.*



**The
Border
Holiday
Group**

**Rheinsberg
2011**



Day 1 : Friday 16th September

There was great excitement in Lesley's household this morning, as we were preparing to leave for the Jumbulance trip to Rheinsberg. Lesley & I were buttering the rolls we would need for the lunch on the bus, as we journey to Hull. The rolls, fillings & lots of delicious stovies & apple tarts were delivered to the bus by Lesley's dad Ian, along with our heavy bags. Lesley & I then walked down, it was a beautiful Autumn morning & everyone was gathering in the Haugh.

We all greeted each other & the lovely VIP's were loaded onto the bus first, to avoid them getting cold. We then met the new driver Vernon, he turned out to be a star & by the end of the holiday it seemed we had known him forever, and it was great to see Brendan again. In no time the bus was packed friends & family had had a quick look round, the doors were closed & at 11am off we went. It took a while to get our "bus legs" but the babbles were already on the go.

Pauline - "What's this place called?" Gillian - "Otterdam".

The three new carers took no time at all to become part of the team, they were as daft as the rest of us.

We stopped at Washington Services, to swap drivers, and while stopped we received the call we dread. A VIP had left their meds at home! Not to worry the doctor would fax the prescription through to which ever pharmacy we could stop at. So all we had to do was get to Hull & find a pharmacy & we will be sorted. Not a chance. Everything was against us, the main road was closed, we had to come off it & head for Thirsk, still plenty time in hand. We passed a Tesco with a pharmacy perfect, Gordon and Pauline went in, it would only take a few minutes, over half an hour later they emerged with the meds. Yeah!!! On we travelled head to tail traffic, it's getting dark & no sign of Hull yet. Not to worry Alison is keeping us all going with her singing, it's a bit like name that tune. Silent Night, Daniel O'Donnal etc. The road cleared & we were told to hold tight, we reached the port at 7.32pm check in closed at 7.30pm. The Captain let us on. Big Sigh of relief! Not least for Gordon & Brendan (If they had hair it would have been grey!)

The room allocation went smoothly & we were all at dinner looking smart by 8pm. Then the dancing began in the lounge & guess who was first up.... yes Alison. Norah too proved to be very nifty on the dance floor, she and Alison were soon joined by others on the dance floor (including myself puffing & panting). Our first day is always intrepid, but I reflected as I went to sleep on what an amazing group we have & that it was a very happy end to the first day.

Glenise and Lesley

PHEW!

Day 2 : Saturday 17th September

The bell ceremony took place in the dance hall, in between the band and disco starting on the Friday evening. All the VIP's danced and enjoyed the music until they wanted to go to bed, the party animals stayed up 'til half past!!

All the VIP's arose early to catch a good breakfast before the long journey. We got 2 porters to assist with the baggage to the bus which was already waiting.

The usual coffees, teas and nibbles took place. At 2pm we stopped for lunch, Pow's steak slices and Nancy's stovies were enjoyed by all.

As our journey continued several members of the group saw a Cooks Van Hire van, unfortunately no one recognised the driver. After making good time and saying: if it kept up we would be in Rheinsberg by 7pm, we hit traffic.

(Never say we are making good time it's the kiss of death).

The lanes merged into one as there was a hole in the carriageway. The traffic soon cleared and after driving through a swarm of insects, we reached Haus Rheinsberg, just after 9pm.

While we all sat and enjoyed a hearty meal, at stationary tables and chairs, our bags were taken to our rooms.

Several of the VIP's then retired to their rooms, but the party animals headed for the bar to celebrate the start of the holiday in Rheinsberg Germany.

Pete & Derek

Oops chipped window...
Auto Glass Repair...
Auto Glass Replace!

Today's
First Aid Box
Use

1 Sterile wipe
1 Plaster
2 Strepsils





Day 3 : Sunday 18th September

This was the day Stuart became group leader and obtained the bell, from Pete, who had done a great job the day before.

After our long trip to Rheinsberg everyone needed to recharge their batteries, (I think they call it coach lag). So Sunday was a quiet day wandering round the palace and grounds and into town. Lunch was set for 12.30 on the terrace of the hotel.

After a good lunch we made our way to the back of the hotel, where Stuart announced that he was going for a walk along the lake side to the marina and once there we would get tea, coffee or juice. The leisurely stroll, in the sunshine, took us alongside the lake, then through the woods to a beautiful marina, with lots of brightly coloured houses and a light house type tower and a cafe! The group all had a small refreshment at the cafe some of the group explored the tower and looked at the boats. Then the rain started and it turned to Scottish weather. So the walk back was a little quicker than the one going.

Once back at the hotel the rest of the day was our own until dinner at 7.30. Group leader Stuart became sleepy after dinner so retired to his room. The evening continued without him, with the group taking over the bowling alley and after some suspect scoring, Team 1 were winners, with Brendan beating Iain in the play off for best player. In a closely fought wooden spoon competition Pauline bowled worse than Pete and left with the coveted Border Holiday Group Wooden Spoon.

As Stuart was in bed the bell handing over ceremony took place the next morning with Stuart handing the bell onto Elliot, with a big smile on his face seemingly pleased to hand the bell of office on. Stuart carried out his duty to the best he could – and done well.

Stuart & Pete

Today's
First Aid Box
Use

- 1 Sterile wipe
- 1 Plaster
- 1 Inco Pad



Gordon - "Look at all the apples on that tree"

Glenise - "Gorgeous isn't it. I don't like apples. they're lovely when they're cooked"





Today's
First Aid Box
Use

1 Inco Pad
Strepsil
~~Ibuprofen Gel~~



Scrub that
the gel
was mine

Day 5 : Tuesday 20th September

Everybody had a long lie in today as we were having a quiet morning so no need to get up.

After breakfast some of the VIP's and carers went down to the pool for a swim and a sauna, which was really relaxing, Dennis had a wee snooze at the side of the pool as it was so warm. Some of the others went into the village shopping while Derek and Pete went a cycle ride. Derek gave some of the VIP's a go on the bike before delivering Glenise, to lunch on the veranda, on the bike.

After lunch we got on the bus and Brendan and Viral took us the short distance to Boltenmuhle. It was a tight squeeze getting the bus down the narrow road but worth it and a picturesque waterwheel and cafe awaited us. We had a short woodland walk on which Glenise, Brian and Blair had a go at 'Planking' with various results.

We then sat down for refreshments, coffee, tea, juice, beer, cheesecake or ice cream. It was a fight between us and the wasps needless to say the Border Holiday Group won.

We then returned to the hotel for dinner and the return leg of the bowling competition. As Brendan and Iain had the highest scores the last time they had to play left handed. Team 1 won again and in the play off for last place Iain lost, Viral being slightly better at the under the legs bowling. In the playoff for best bowler Marina saw off Elliot to lift the crown.

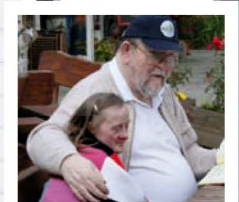
The evening then continued with songs and poetry, finishing, with Dennis handing over the bell to Elaine. Everyone was in their beds by Midnight, or at least by half past!

PLANKING

Dennis & Iain

Today's
First Aid Box
Use

BP cuff used
3 times.
Oxygen and mask
touched but
not used



Day 6 : Wednesday 21st September

When we got up this morning it was lovely and sunny and we stood on the balcony for a while before breakfast, just enjoying the view and relaxing. Our trip today was to Berlin Zoo, which was really good. We saw all sorts of animals from huge elephants to very small birds. On the journey we asked the drivers to play our special Jumbalance song. It was the first time some of the carers, VIP's and Vernon the driver had heard the song, by the second play everyone was singing along, except, maybe, Brendan. Jumba, jumba, jumba, jumba....

After dinner we had a quiz which Pete and Derek won, Elliot and Blair won the much coveted wooden spoons. Then Pauline did a pass the parcel game, every time she said right the parcel was to be passed to the right and every time she said left it was to be passed to the left, this proved to be very funny and as much a task for the carers as the VIP's.

It was then time to pass the bell onto Thursdays leader Alison, who was very emotional. Then it was off to bed for a good nights sleep as Alison had a very busy day planned for us all.

Feeding Time
at the Zoo

Elaine & Lorna

Today's
First Aid Box
Use

Paracetamol
Savlon
Micropore
Scissors





Day 7 : Thursday 22nd September

Everyone was up smart for breakfast today and once we had all had a good feed Gordon asked that we all met in the front lobby for our group photo. We all had to wear our blue T-shirts and line up in front of the hotel while Marita took the photo for us. We then all burst into song, singing Happy Birthday to Pete. We then got loaded on the bus as we were going on a boat trip to Waren. Brendan and Vern took us to Robel where the boat was waiting for us. Gordon took me to get the tickets while everyone else had a cuppa on the bus.

Once they had all finished their cuppa it was time to get on the boat. The boat was lovely and very roomy. Lots of photos were taken both below deck and up on deck when some of the more adventurous ventured outside. Birthday boy Pete treated us all to a drink and we sang the Jumbulance song to the other passengers. Unfortunately when we arrived at Waren it had started raining and had turned cold so instead of having lunch outside as planned we had it on the bus where it was warm and dry. Our bellies full it was time to head for the hotel.

Everyone disappeared to their rooms to get ready for the fancy dress party and at half past seven we all met again in the front lobby. Everyone was laughing at each others costumes, all of which were very good, we had Super Heroes, Knights, Cowboys, Jimmy Krankie and of course Queen Victoria, who else could the group leader be?

After another photo call and a conga round the dining hall it was time for tea. Then it was time for the birthday cake before the floor was cleared for the disco. Disco all set up we were all raring to go after topping up our energy levels. We danced and sang all night and a great time was had by all, Derek even won a prize for best fancy dress and Superman flew past for a visit. The evening ended with the handing over of the bell to Marina, Fridays group leader.

Alison & Laura.

3 New Carers

The Newly Weds!

Today's
First Aid Box
Use

1 Inco Pad
Strepsil
~~Ibuprofen~~ Get



Scrub that
the gel
was mine

Revenge is
Ketchup
flavour!





Co-driver Elliot checks the oil

Today's First Aid Use

Scissors & Micropore



Day 8 : Friday 23rd September

Everyone had a long lie and leisurely breakfast. This morning was a relaxing morning, so people could go a walk along the street and towns shops for last minute souvenirs. I bought some postcards to send to friends and family. We all went to the local ice cream parlour for lunch. Crepes and ice creams were ordered and enjoyed by all.

After lunch it was time to head back to the front of the hotel for an afternoon carriage ride. The ride took in the monument on the other side of the lake and then it was off into the woods. When we returned to the hotel some of the VIP's fed the horses the apples that were left from the weeks packed lunches. Then it was time to go and pack our suitcases so Brendan could get the bus loaded that night.

At 4 o'clock everyone gathered in the reception for the presentations. As group leader I led the way. Gordon presented Marita, who organised everything at the hotel for us, with a gift from the group, an engraved letter opener. Me and the other VIP's then presented the reception staff, chamber maids, bar staff kitchen staff and drivers with gifts. Then it was our turn to receive gifts, Gordon presented all the VIP's with a wee gift to remind us of the trip and a certificate. My certificate was for being Champion Bowler.

We then had some time to kill before dinner and an evening slideshow of the photos from the week. At the end of the slide show I passed the bell onto Martin. Then everyone had an early night as we were leaving very early on Saturday morning.

I have really enjoyed this holiday.

Marina and Gillian





Day 9 : Saturday 24th September

We set off after an early breakfast with hopes that we would return in the future, this was reciprocated by all, I found the hotel facilities superb and would return again. Despite my three days stay in hospital I have enjoyed my Rheinsberg stay.

Marita came on board the bus to say goodbye and gave each of us a pot of pate, from her family's butcher shop. Leaving a sunny Rheinsberg the journey to Rotterdam was thankfully uneventful and we made good time. This meant we got onto the ferry quickly which meant we could enjoy a more relaxed evening than we did on the outward journey.

After a freshen up some of us had drinks on the star deck before dinner. The same buffet choices as we had on the way out awaited us, however after a week of German food some to the group were pleased to see chips on the menu. I handed the bell over to Gordon, for safekeeping until the next trip, then it was time to hit the duty free shop before some of the group enjoyed a night of dancing.

Martin, Norah & Brian

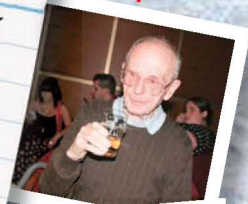
The list of medical supplies used



Who gave her the Passports, It's lucky she never lost them!!!!



Don't touch his pint!



Today's First Aid Box Use
Inco Pads
Scissors
Micropore



And Bonjella, also mine

No idea who this guy is????

Day 10 : Sunday 25th September

It was an early start for everyone and we all managed to make the 7.30 deadline for breakfast. Glenise and I positioned ourselves at a nice central table only to be shadowed by three burly men telling us we had stolen their table. They felt sorry for us and sat elsewhere. It was a hearty breakfast and after we had all filled our stomachs for the last part of our journey, we collected our luggage from our cabins and put it all on the trolleys very kindly supplied by P & O. They also supplied a rather dapper steward (STEADY ON GIRLS IT'S ONLY JUST GONE 8AM) to ensure we all got off the Pride of Rotterdam first. THE SCENE OF OUR LAST PARTY NIGHT WITH ALISON AGAIN BEING CROWNED DISCO QUEEN. Once outside the terminal we all enjoyed the first big laugh of the day when Brian informed us all that it was good to be back on TERRACOTTA. That's his version of British soil!!!! It's amazing what just one trip does to the human brain.

It was cold, wet and windy. However the boys loaded the Jumbulance in record time and we were soon on the final leg of our journey home. Cups of tea were made and snacks and sweets got us up the road. Derek gave us some of his usual high standard of entertainment, even an ode to Uncle Dennis, WHO HAPPILY SLEPT THROUGH IT ALL, more community singing followed, BEFORE WE KNEW IT WE WERE PASSING ELLIOT'S HOME IN BONCHESTER. ONLY A FEW MILES TO GO,

TIME TO SAY A FEW WORDS OF THANKS. FIRST ON THE MIKE WAS OUR OWN FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, PAULINE, WHO ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP THANKED LESLEY & MYSELF FOR ORGANISING THE HOLIDAY, AND HOW IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE WHAT WE HAD ACHIEVED IN THE PAST 9 DAYS: BOAT TRIP, BERLIN ZOO, BOWLING, VISIT TO POTSDAM, BICYCLE RUNS, HORSE & CARRIAGE TRIP, FABULOUS NIGHTS, ESPECIALLY THE FANCY DRESS PARTY & MUCH MUCH MORE. I TOOK OVER AND STARTED BY THANKING THE CARERS FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORKING MAKING IT SUCH AND ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE FOR THE VIP'S, THEN IT WAS BRENDAN & VERNON'S TURN FOR DRIVING US SAFELY TO & FROM RHEINSBERG & ALSO ALL THE DAY TRIPS. & A PLEASURE TO HAVE BEEN IN YOUR COMPANY FOR THE PAST 10 DAYS & THANKS FOR COMING WITH US. TO LESLEY FOR ALL HER WORK ON THE COMPUTER BEFORE AND DURING THE TRIP. FINALLY PAULINE, OUR OWN FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, WHO LOOKED AFTER US ALL SO WELL WHILST AWAY.

Before we knew it we had arrived at the Haugh where all our family and friends had assembled to greet us. Once unloaded for the final time everyone got their home made pate courtesy of Marita's family, then it was our final farewells but not for long as we will all meet up again in a few weeks time at the reunion afternoon. Let's all do it again roll on 2013 !!!!

Pauline More - Group Nurse & GORDON JACKSON - GROUP LEADER

Today's
First Aid Box
Use

1 more
plaster





On this trip we missed driver Zoe, however we forgive her for not coming as she gave birth to Charles on the Tuesday of our Trip. Pete Lang won the babies weight sweep stake.



Lookie likies. Alison & Holy Hobbie



Things Said on The Holiday:

As Blair wiped the crumbs off Dennis's trousers: Dennis - "I might have been saving them for later!"

After receiving a kick from Alison: : Lesley - "That was GBH, Lorna you saw that." Alison - "A'm no gaun there!" (BGH)

"Sook sook sook sook blaw" accordion player in music man - Gillian

Gordon - "Look at all those apples on the tree" Glenise - "I don't like apples... they are nice when they're cooked!"

"I looked every inch of my 60 years" - Glenise

"What day is aromatherapy night?" - Brendan

Laura - "If Alison would just stop speaking for two minutes I might get an hours peace!"

Glenise -- "I am worried something is seriously wrong with me, my fingers are all blue this morning look." Lesley - "Have you been wearing new jeans?" Glenise - "Yes", Lesley - "It's levi-itis!" The dye from the jeans on her hands.

"This is a great museum" Berlin Zoo - Pauline

"It's beginning to look like there is no reptile house in this building" The zoo - Pete

"I'm getting booze gumps" - Pete

Tails Coo - Lesley

Anti-gestion tablets - Lesley

"I would like to speak to the management I have a complaint to make!" - Alison on not getting an ice cream.

Viral Staircase - Pauline

"Ye ken A've never been oot the back o' this holiday" - Gordon

Nurofen - Neuruppin the neighbouring town - Gordon

Centre of the middle... in the round circle - Gillian

Pauline - "So are we going to do that when we get off the bus?" Gordon, in a very serious and measured voice - "No. We will do it when we get off the bus."

Gordon explains in intricate detail how Glenise is to arrange, decorate and present etc, the birthday cake, Glenise - "So you want me to slice somethin'?"

After Glenise was kissed by Banana Man and the blue make up was on her face Lesley -- "You best get that Levi-itis checked it looks like it's spreading." Dennis after Glenise repeated what Lesley Had said - "Yes you had better it's getting quite big!"

Lesley - "Is it me, or does this feel floor like it's moving?" Pauline - "yes."

"Glair plinks red" - Pauline (Blair drinks red)

"Back on terracotta" - Brian



Elliot's favourite tippie



