

# Official Diary

*The Border Holiday Group*

## Niederau 2013

13 September - 22 September 2013



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

*Staff and customers at  
Sainsbury's in Hawick,  
Hawick Summer Festival,  
Maxton 21 Club,  
Hawick Rotary Club,  
Wilton Dean WRI,  
Emtelle Jedburgh,  
Weens Eventide Homes,  
Earlston Parish Church,  
Oxnam Ladies Group,  
Friday Coffee Girls,  
The Golden Girls,  
St Mary's Guild,  
Hawick Overs 50's Club,  
The Wine Walking Club,  
Morrison's Hawick,  
Jamie Scott & Kirsty Rokson,  
Mr & Mrs R Charters,  
Mr & Mrs Sutherland,  
Mr & Mrs G Rennie,  
The Jumbulance and drivers  
Brendan & Martin.  
Gill and staff at Hotel  
Sonnschien. The care team, the  
VIP's,  
and all the friends and family  
who have baked, cooked,  
made sandwiches, did bars  
and sold tickets.*

**Thank You**

To amuse ourselves on the  
journey we took photos of each  
others arm crevases, which,  
if done correctly look like  
bottoms. Can you guess whose  
"bottom" is on each page?

Answers inside the back page.

## **The Jumbulance**

*(To the tune of Anvil Crew)*

Chorus:

**Oh the Jumbulance is big and white  
Five beds a kitchen 'n' lift  
And driver Brendan reads the map  
While Martin mans the wheel.**

Our bags were packed and our passports check  
As we left frae Hawick that day,  
We travelled South to Hull dock side  
To start our holiday.  
On-board the boat we had our tea  
Fish, chips and mushy peas.  
We danced all night then went to bed  
And sailed over the seas.

### **Oh the Jumbulance...**

We woke up early on foreign shores  
And got onto the bus.  
From Rotterdam we travelled south  
With very little fuss,  
In Austria, the sun gone down  
The Alps were in the dark  
It mattered not as we'd arrived  
And we could disembark.

### **Oh, oh the Jumbulance...**

In Niederau we woke that morn  
And started to explore,  
The church, the town and other things,  
We discovered more and more.  
We did many things, throughout the week  
Cable cars, boat trips, fancy dress.  
With fun and laughter had by all  
And some got in a mess.

### **Oh, oh, oh, the Jumbulance...**

Our week now coming to an end  
Our thoughts returned to home.  
We said good bye Gill and staff  
And left on the J 1.  
We travelled north throughout the night  
The Alps a fading sight.  
A pyjama party on the bus  
Then settled doon for the night.

### **Oh the Jumbulance...**

But never fear, we had one more night  
On the ferry coming home.  
We partied hard then woke in Hull  
For the final bus trip home.  
In Scotland we then all got off  
Said farewell and so long,  
With memories and laughs to keep oo gaun  
'Til our reunion six weeks on.

### **Oh, oh, oh, oh the Jumbulance...**



## Day 1 - Friday 13th September

Friday the 13th may be unlucky for some but not for members of the Border Holiday Group as we prepare to leave for Austria. Luggage, medical aids, provisions, and passengers all safely on board J1 rolled out the Haugh Car Park at 10am starting the first leg of our outward journey. Two and half hours later Brendan pulled into Durham Services to refuel and enjoy our packed lunch prepared by Brydon's Bakery. The hour long stop flew past and we were mobile again to complete the final leg of today's journey.

Arriving in good time passports checked, cabins allocated, overnight luggage moved by the ever helpful P&O staff we boarded the Pride of Rotterdam at 4 30 pm.

With plenty of time to freshen up first time travellers explored the ferry before we all met up at 7pm for our evening meal, then it was time to hit the dance floor, a great start to our holiday.

Gordon, Group Leader





## Day 2 - Saturday 14th September

After having a fab night on the boat we rose early to board the bus and head across country to Austria. The 12 hour journey would be a long one but moods were high and all were excited to get going. To entertain ourselves along the way we sang some weel kent songs, including renditions of "Up Wi the Banner" and "Edelweiss". (To be honest we only sang bits of most of the songs as no one could remember the words to the whole song!)

At lunchtime we stopped to swap drivers. A hearty lunch of stovies and pies followed by apple pie and custard. Brendan was quick out his bunk to make sure he didn't miss out, as all Jumbulance travellers know; Nancy Fraser's stovies are legendary.

Continuing on our way, with stomachs full, some had forty winks while others chatted, told stories and jokes the odd cheers of hilarity breaking out.

Finally after a very long day we arrive at Hotel Sonnschein, where we were greeted warmly by Gill and family. Rooms allocated and cases dropped off, we headed for the dining room to enjoy a lovely late evening meal. Although tired the group was content and happy the holiday could now begin.

Kylie & Laura

Hawick -  
Niederau:  
1049miles





## Day 3 - Sunday 15th September

As we had arrived late last night, in the dark, it was a lovely surprise for us all to see the village in the daylight. Because of the long day on the bus yesterday we had a free morning to relax and explore. Some of the group went to the Church, where there was a special service for the local fire brigade, who were celebrating 115 years. After the service there was a parade, led by the village band, which we all watched. Some of us were lucky enough to see some paragliders flying over the village.

For lunch the group went to a restaurant in the village, and as it was such a lovely afternoon we all sat outside to eat. Those who wanted to then boarded the Jumbulance for the short journey to Rattenberg, a lovely old village on the banks of the River Inn. The first of many shopping opportunities went well, with a few people buying Christmas decorations, the town specialty being glass and crystal ware. After a refreshment break, at one of the many cafes, it was back onto the bus and back to the hotel.

After dinner it was time for one of several firsts for the Border Holiday Group, a race night. This was great fun and was eventually won by Derek. Lesley had made all the horses and even printed Border Holiday Group Money. We all knew she was talented but none of us knew that she was into Forgery!!  
(Forgery)

My last job as group leader was to pass the bell onto Linda before going to bed. I am sure I can say that everyone enjoyed their first day and we are looking forward to many more as the week goes on.

Jan & Gillian

Rattenberg:  
27miles



## Day 4 - Monday 16th September

Monday started off showery for our trip to Innsbruck, and after a short detour in the city due to a low bridge, we arrived at the coach park, at the same time as the persistent rain!

People set off in small groups, dodging in and out of the shops to try and miss the worst of the rain, and most met up for an excellent lunch at a small cafe in the old town area.

After lunch, one small group set off to a shopping centre and had some fun going up and down in the lift trying to find their way out! On the journey back to the hotel Gordon introduced the Group to Strohhum, with varying results!

Back to the hotel and after dinner it was the 'Do Something' night, compered by Derek Inglis. A new Jumbulance song was sung by Gillian, Peter and Lesley, with jokes by Scott and Jan to poems by Pauline & Lorna, and songs from Tony, Gordon, Laura and us. The enjoyable evening was concluded with Derek's recital of 'A farmers dog', after which some retired to their rooms while others retired to the bar.

Linda & Alex.

Innsbruck: 83miles



## Day 5 - Tuesday 17th September

When we got up this morning there was a definite change in the temperature. It was very cold and wet when we left the hotel. As we were driving to Berchtesgaden, in Germany, we could see it had been snowing and the mountain tops were white.

For a special treat for the carers, who had been to Austria before, we drove through Lofer. The Group had spent many happy times at the St Hubertus Hotel.

When we arrived at Berchtesgaden we had a packed lunch while Gordon went off to buy the tickets for the boat trip. Everyone enjoyed a sail along Lake Konigsee to St Bartholoma, with a musical interlude on the way from the boat pilot, he played duet with the echo from his bugle. We had plenty time to wander round, take some photos and buy some souvenirs. There was great hilarity when Peter & Brian picked Lorna up and threatened to throw her in the Lake. All those queuing for the next boat started clapping and cheering. The sun came out for the return boat trip and there was a chance for more shopping at Konigsee before boarding the bus.

On the drive home we saw Salzburg castle in the distance and was treated to a really spectacular and vibrant double rainbow.

On returning to the hotel, all the VIP's off the bus, 4 of the carers ambushed the drivers with water pistols (retaliation for an attack two years ago). I'm not sure who came off worst, but good fun was had by all.

After dinner it was time for another first, a newspaper quiz. Closely fought our team won, but everyone got chocolates as a prize. I thanked the drivers for taking us out and passed the bell on to Russell who is Group Leader tomorrow.

Marion & Lorna

Berchtesgaden:  
170miles



## Day 6 - Wednesday 18th September

### Trip to Vipiteno, Italy.

After a lovely breakfast we mustered at 10 o'clock to board the Jumbulance. Once on board I gave Sarah her birthday cards and gift and we all sang happy birthday. The sun came out as we headed towards Italy with Martin at the wheel. After crossing a bit of the Brenner Pass, then dropping down into Brenner, we stopped and had a lovely lunch at the Hotel Alpin.

Russell then found a football and we had a penalty shooting competition, while others discovered their inner child, playing on swings, tricycles and trampolines. After lunch we headed through the mountain road, and back under the Brenner Pass, to Vipiteno.

We then did some shopping and sat and had refreshments in the beautiful cobbled streets. The only traffic being bicycles and a horse and carriage.

It was then back to the hotel to get ready for the fancy dress night. All changed into our fancy dress outfits it was time for dinner but not before we conga'd round the dining room, much to the amusement of the other guests. We then danced the night away and I handed the bell to Tony.

Russell & Brian

Vipiteno: 150miles



## Day 7 - Thursday 19th September

The day started rather dull and cloudy but it didn't dampen our spirits as we enjoyed a hearty breakfast. Around 9.30 a taxi arrived to take Mike to the train station in Worl, where he could spend the day in trainspotting heaven. Russell and Brian also took advantage of the taxi to give Russell the chance to find the football strip he wanted to buy. Gordon also cadged a lift to the bank. Hahaha he had to walk back to the hotel. Around 10.30 the bus was loaded and we set off for the cable car ride up the mountain. When we reached Worl we picked up Russell & Brian, unfortunately without a football strip. A quick stop at a big sports store on the way out of town turned up an Austrian strip, which Russell agreed would be ok, so we would stop on the way back later so he could get it.

After a short journey we turned off the main highway and headed into the mountains. At the top of the twisting road we arrived at one of the best look out points to survey the Tirol valley. Unfortunately it was raining and rather busy so we decided to move on. On reaching Lake Achensee we drove round the lake to Pertisau, where we had lunch in a local hotel. The group had everything from toasties to liver, Pauline getting a shock as the snack board she ordered was huge, but not as shocked as Gordon who tried to pinch a large chunk of cheese from her only to discover it was butter!!

After our meal we walked up to the cable car station. This was the first time Janet, Marion, Kylie, Linda, Alex, Russell & Tony had been on one and the thing Pauline had been most dreading. Russell and Pauline decided to help each other and got on the first car with Gordon and Lorna. After a smooth ride to the top of the mountain we all got off the cable car and were rewarded with outstanding views of the Lake below. Big hearty congratulations to everyone for facing their fears and making it to the top.

The cafe was open, so after everyone had taken photos of the various views, and Tony had tried his best a yodelling (it sounded like a cow in pain), we all enjoyed a beverage of some kind. Linda, Alex, Jan, & Tony all ate freshly made Apple strudel, while Brian and Pete gorged themselves on a giant custard slice. (Not sure what the other customers thought of them sharing it in such a romantic manner).

Taking in the views once again it was time to make our way back to the cable car, only discovering after all the wheelchairs were pushed up the steep slope to the station that there was an automated escalator, which Laura, Glenise and Blair made use of. (You have to remember to step off it at the end though. Don't you Glenise?) After another smooth ride down in the cable car, with yet more spectacular views, we walked back to the bus, and were passed by the old steam train that takes tourists round the lake. Most (the older ones) commented on the burning coal smell that reminded them of the trains that used to run in the Borders. Back at the bus it was time for the Group photo.

On arriving back at the outskirts of Worl, Brian went to get Russell's Austrian football strip, while Russell slept on the bus. Mike greeted us back at the hotel having had a brilliant day taking over 400 photos of trains.

After dinner it was quiz night, the drivers somehow managing to win and Pete once again winning the wooden spoon. It was then an early night for most, the high altitude having taken its toll.

Tony & Derek

Achensee: 45 miles



## Day 8 - Friday 20th September

I received the bell from Scott and started my duties by announcing the proceedings for the day. It would be a relaxing day for all. We could do what we wanted due to some carers needing to prepare the bus for the return journey and the drivers needing to rest before the long journey home.

Lunch would be at twelve and then the presentation at five, so a group of us went up to the village to get some last minute gifts. Then we had ice cream, burgers and lager, it was a nice touch when Tony & Derek bought the food and drink, thank you. We made our way back to the hotel and Derek announced that he would leave Tony in Pete's care as he was going for a paraglide off the top of the mountain. Tony and I sat on the decking and chilled out.

Before long it was time for the presentation to the staff, this was a great touch, they were so pleased. We also presented the two drivers, Brendan & Martin, with gifts to thank them for all they have done this week (great). We all received certificates for different achievements and small cow bells to remember our trip by. Then it was time for our evening meal before boarding the bus for the first leg of our journey home, having had a great holiday.

With the carers dressed in various onsies and pyjamas, for the overnight journey on the bus, Gill and daughter Emily came on board to thank us for coming and wishing us a safe journey home. The Jumbulance set off at 8pm. With some already in bed, and others getting comfortable in their seats, we headed out of Niederau, oblivious to the fact barmaid Joanna was running behind us waving a napkin, as we had left without paying the final bar bill! Thankfully Gill saw the funny side when we emailed to apologize.

The bus was quiet with many falling asleep before we had even got down into Worgl. Pete and Brian were busy up the back of the bus, persevering with drinking what was left of the Stroh, Jan helped them. The first stop for a change of drivers came in Germany, the carers taking the chance to use the service station facilities. This was a site to behold 12 adults dressed in onsies and pyjamas filing off a bus in the middle of Germany, only to find a turnstile outside the rest rooms, there are no pockets in onsies for money! The youngsters in the services told us to duck under and we were in. Much hilarity followed as Pauline and Lesley discovered the German loos had automated seat cleaners, they rotated and washed themselves when you flushed them. Good job we weren't sitting on them when we found that out.

It was then back onto the bus where everyone settled down for the night be that in a bed on a seat or on the floor in the kitchen!

Mike & Pete

Can you  
see  
the ghost?



## Day 9 - Saturday 21st September

We woke up after a long night on the bus, to a misty and atmospheric Holland. Brendan had stopped the bus at a service station so we could freshen up and have our breakfast. After everyone was ready we set off again to the seaside town of Scheveninger on the outskirts of The Hague. After a walk along the prom and a look round the shopping centre, Gordon and I went to find somewhere we could have lunch. We found a lovely place called Binnen; everyone had a lovely lunch, Gordon even having a wee nap at the lunch table. Then it was back onto the prom for some more shopping. There was a gentleman with parrots who let some of the group hold them, Marion had about 5 on her, and luckily none of them "left a deposit."

Then it was onto the beach for another BHG first, beach football, Russell had been waiting all week for this. His team won 7-4, it was a good game enjoyed by all at the time (the carers suffered for it later,) Russell & Kylie both scoring goals. Then it was back onto the bus. Jan presented Russell with a prize for captaining the winning team and everyone signed his football. The journey to Rotterdam was a little longer than it should have been as there were several road closures due to a marathon and several road works.

Once we got to Europort we boarded the Pride of Hull Gordon told us to meet at 7 for dinner, we all went to our cabins to freshen up. After dinner some of the group went shopping before joining the rest in the bar to watch the entertainment. The group then danced the night away making the most of their last night.

Scott & Blair





## Day 10 - Sunday 22nd September

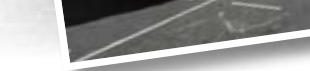
We awoke to our last day together on our 2013 Jumbulance trip. After scrambling to our feet and chairs, we had a hearty breakfast on the Pride of Hull. Brendan and Martin went off to get the bus going, and we gathered luggage, each other and made our way to the gangway. Mike's Scooter had a puncture so he coaxed it down the gangway. The drivers and bus were waiting for us when we got off so we all climbed aboard. It was a beautiful morning, warm sunshine and blue skies. Everyone was a little tired but we sang and entertained ourselves up the road with tea and fruit loaf.

Martin pulled into Wigan services to change drivers and some of us got off for some air, coffee and a bite to eat. Kylie got the surprise of her life when she received her favourite pie from Greggs. A cheese and bean pasty from Laura. Her whole face burst into the biggest grin when she saw the Greggs bag. It was also here where a very tall distinguished gentleman approached the Jumbulance to have a closer look at the Austrian flags we had in our bus windows. On talking to him, we discovered that he was actually a border control officer in Austria, and was interested to find out where we had been.

All back on board we continued up the M6. It was decided to delay even further our return to Hawick in the hope of more fun. And that we did in the form of 16 Ice creams and 2 cokes from the shop in Langholm.

The inevitable time had arrived and we eventually saw the sign for Hawick. Gordon had his last few words, and as we tuned into the Haugh we saw family and friends waving and smiling for our return. Another fantastic, fabulous, fun week on board the Jumbulance with the Border Holiday Group. A last big thank you to Brendan and Martin. You are both the "salt of the earth"

Pauline. (nurse)



Niederau - Hawick: 1090 miles



# Babbles and Memorable Phrases

Glenise when travelling past a layby "There's an unsolved murder that hasn't been solved."

"That lady wove back." Pete, on waving at passers by.

Brian "I've signed the plage" (Pledge)

"Maple syrup, pecans & caramelised squirrel" (Swirl) Pete on reading Mikes Ice Cream choice.

Brian "Can Russell have a packet of cola and a can of crisps please"

"I can't mind Brian's name" This was after putting Gordon down as Steven! Glenise when taking the food order

Pauline "I've put the extra Maxi Peps in the fridge"

"I will resband to anything" Martin when talking about his job as a paramedic

On talking about Pauline's husband Kenny "Kenny's husband...."

"We droov at..." Martin

Glenise at the church service blessing the new fire fighting equipment

"I thought that was a coffee machine."

"That man wi the heid" Gillian on trying to describe someone

Pete "Stimulate the perfect fall"

"What time is the bed?" Gillian asking what when dinner was.

Glenise when everyone was tidying up her room at the end of the evening :

"Are we getting thrown out?" It was her OWN ROOM!

Lesley "Dr Forster fell in a piddle"

Gillian spotting "Flashing Tights" in Primark

Blair telling Lorna about a lump on his leg "It came up the morn."

"There's twae muckle chunks o' cheese oo could cut them into chops" (Chips)

"Russell came on this strip for a holiday"

Where are we going/ have we been today? Battenberg, Batersby – It was Rattenberg , Gillian & Brian

Scudy- Berchtesgaden Marion

Vienetto, Vimto – Vipiteno Are we going to veinetto? Is this Vimto? Gillian & Brian

Gillian to Tony while waiting to get off the bus while it was raining:

"I think we'll just wait on the bus Tony cos it's no raining"

"You'll have to face his paint" Pauline

Lesley on describing the pudding "It's not bad, it's banana & onion"

"It shun for us yesterday" Pauline on the previous days sighting of the sun

"Go and take a window out that camera"

Gordon "I wonder if that TV will fit in my case" Laura "You won't want it it's all in German!"

Pete "I came to see Lesley about my Hi fi Pod!!!"

"I like playing in the sand wi my feet on" Blair

Gillian on returning home remarked she had her first load of washing "In the Microwave!"

"Bottoms:"

Day 1 - Gillian, Day 2 - Gordon, Day 3 - Brian, Day 4 - Blair, Day 5 - Pauline, Day 6 - Lesley, Day 7 - Blair,  
Day 8 - Brian, Day 9 - Glenise, Day 10 - Brian.







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