

Official Diary

The Border Holiday Group

Niederau 2015

11th September - 20th September 2015





Border Holiday Group, Jumbulance Travellers Welcome:

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. We are Pauline & Lesley, your senior dogs bodies, we mean, cabin crew!

On behalf of Group Leader, Gordon, and our team of carers, we would like to welcome you onto this Jumbulance journey to Niederau. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new travellers and say **"oh no' you again!"** to those have been before.

This journey is operated in cooperation with our partners the Jumbulance Trust, represented here today, by head driver bredan (with a small b) and co-driver 'the Lovely' Martin. If talking to the drivers please do so, slowly and clearly, as it takes them about a week to become accustomed to the Soft Lowland Tongue of you Borderers. We can assist if you are in need of a translator.....Gillian!

Our travelling time will be in the region of; **"are we nearly there yet?"** to **"is it Christmas already!"** It will be a journey of three parts, the drivers have been known to partake of a drink during one part of the journey, for all sakes let's hope it is the sea crossing!

You are free to use any electronic personal devices whilst on the Jumbulance but please be aware; those of you listening to music and singing along, may come under abuse for your taste in music and/or your singing voice, from both the drivers and your fellow travellers!

On board this Jumbulance we have a team of carers who speak the following languages. Teri, Souter, Boswells and Jumbulance. And for everything else, we have Adam! But by Sunday no one will be able to form a coherent sentence!

We have a well-stocked kitchen and beverage area, and if you ask really really nicely, we might let you have something from it.

Now for the safety announcement:

Please keep your seatbelts fastened when you are seated or in a bed, your carer will help you with this. They can also help you adjust your seat position and if you wish to have a lie down on a bed, **kick them off it first!**

Please do not try to walk about the bus unaided. The drivers try to keep the journey as smooth as possible, but in the event of a sudden stop, please keep an eye on Gillian, who has been known to perform gymnastic somersaults off of the bed and down the stairs!

When needing to go to the toilet please let a carer know and they will help you get to the toilet safely, and if we get the right angle we will catapult you up onto it!

The buzzers are there to annoy the drivers, press them at your own risk! If you do need help just shout, someone is bound to hear you eventually!

In the event of lunch being burnt or being baked beans, **we** will be supplied with oxygen masks which can be fitted to the face like so.... the rest of you, on other hand, will just have to hold your breath! Sick bags have been provided in case lunch is inedible!

Just prior to meal times safety aprons can be worn. This is not compulsory, but if it is at all likely that **we** will be assisting you eat, it is highly recommended. Aprons can be fitted like so, lift over the head and secured behind the back. If you need crumbs removed this can be done by gently blowing down the front like so. If you wish to retain the crumbs, for snacking on later, please let your carer know.

Exits to the Jumbulance are the same as the entrances, you just go out them instead of in. No one has any idea what the one down the stairs, half way up the bus, is for: other than Gillian's gymnastics! Though we did have a carer, Ian, who went down there one trip and was never seen again!

In the event of an emergency don't panic, it just means we have forgotten the corkscrew but we will figure out a way to get in to the wine, **we are professionals after all!**

Please sit back and enjoy your journey, refreshments will be served shortly, if we can find everything in the kitchen.



Pauline & Lesley, your Friendly Cabin Crew!



Day 1 - Friday 11th September

Well the day had finally arrived Friday, 11th September, 2015, the day we had all been waiting on for the past two years. All the preparation was complete and it was time to enjoy our long awaited Austrian trip.

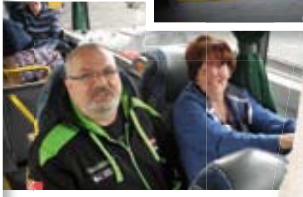
As the Jumbulance rolled into the Haugh at nine o'clock you could see the excitement on the faces of the travellers, especially our VIP'S. With the suitcases, wheelchairs, foodstuffs and group members all safely on board, we started the first leg of our 2000 km journey at 09:40 hours, being waved away by friends and family.

A comfortable journey took us by Jedburgh, the Carter Bar, Newcastle and on to Weatherby Services to enjoy our buffet lunch kindly sponsored by Nick and Jackie Polowny from the Hawick Golf Club.

Our onward journey was trouble free arriving in good time at the Queen Elizabeth Dock, Hull. Passports checked and cabins allocated we were able to board the Pride of Rotterdam just after 17:10 hours allowing plenty of time to freshen up before our evening meal at seven thirty. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all then it was time to explore the ferry an exciting time, especially for our first time travellers some making purchases in the Duty Free shop.

It was then time to hit the dance floor, with all enjoying the fun and laughter. Gradually all the group retired for the night bearing in mind an early start and a long twelve hour journey the following day but a great start to our 2015 trip.

Gordon Jackson
(Group leader)

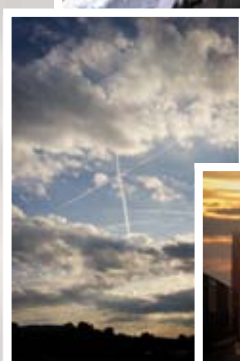
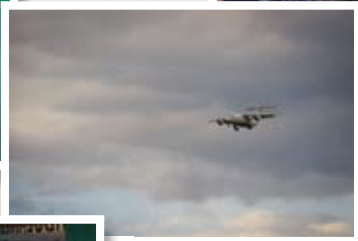
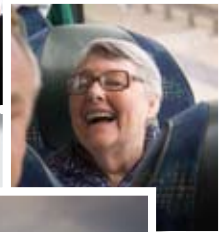
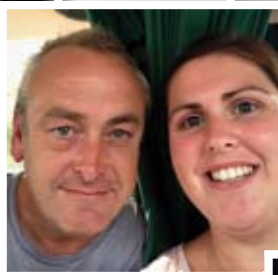




Day 2 - Saturday 12th September

The first full day on our trip to Niederau. We arrived in Holland on time, enjoying the tasty breakfast on the ship before disembarking. It was then back onto the Jumbulance for the 13 hour drive from Holland to Austria. We had great fun on the bus, David was Group Leader. We ate great stovies and pies for lunch. The weather was not too bad with only a couple showers of rain and a lovely sunset. It was dark by the time we got to Austria and as it was so late David handed the Bell onto tomorrow's Group Leader, Chris, while we were still on the bus. It was 22:10 before we arrived at Hotel Sonnnschein. We all got off the bus and found our rooms. Then had a meal in the dining room before retiring to bed.

David & Adam





Day 3 - Sunday 13th September

All had an enjoyable breakfast and a lazy morning. Brian & I went up the cable car in Niederau with Gordon & Gillian and had a magnificent view of the local area on this beautiful day. Some of the others had a walk round the village before meeting up for a lovely lunch at a restaurant in the village.

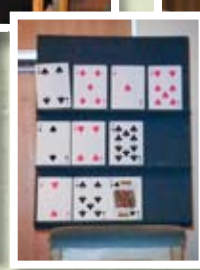
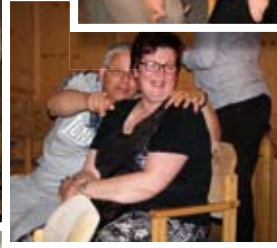
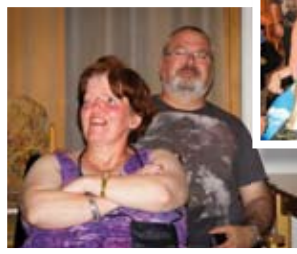
Everyone then boarded the Jumbulance to head off on a short trip to Rattenburg, where we went to purchase some souvenirs and gifts. Some of the Group stopped for refreshments at various local cafés.

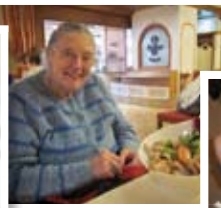
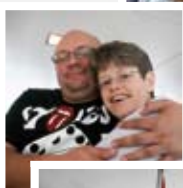
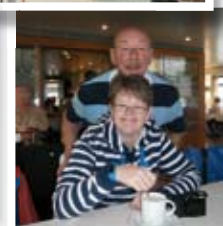
Once back on board the bus it was back to the Hotel for our first evening meal in their restaurant. Everyone full up, it was time for games night and we headed through to the conference room. I then handed the Bell over to tomorrow's Group leader Cynthia. However Gordon had to make an announcement. Due to a problem with P&O we would have to cut our trip short and return home on the Tuesday Night ferry! Everyone's heads dropped, but he was only JOKING!!!!

Derek then hosted Play Your Cards Right! ably assisted by Dolly Dealer Pauline. Alison and Keith came close to winning but Elma was the only one to get right through the board, winning herself a couple cans of beer and some crisps (we forgot to get a prize!). Jane however was not so successful but she did not leave empty handed, winning the wooden spoon!

I really enjoyed being Group Leader for the day and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

Chris & Brian





Day 4 - Monday 14th September

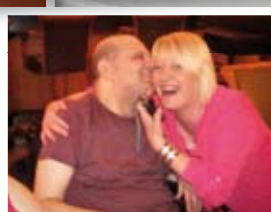
Many thanks to our drivers for looking after us. Sorry about the rain, but we are a very resilient Group. The closure of the German borders might have stopped us going to Salzburg but it did not stop us enjoying each others company. So we went up a mountain to Pertisau where we enjoyed a boat trip on Lake Achensee. After a few refreshments on the boat and a lap of the lake it was time to get off and guess what, it was still raining!

Off to lunch at a nearby hotel, 'small' omelettes, 'small' salads and 'small' pizzas were ordered but Austria doesn't seem to do small! Then it was time to get on the Jumbulance and guess what, it was still raining!

Back at the hotel the weather cleared and everyone enjoyed some free time before dinner. After dinner I passed the bell onto Alison before we had an evening of Bingo, won by Keith. Then a few refreshments in the bar.

Cynthia & Gillian

Sorry this poem is only a wee clip
I am so grateful for being on this trip
Sharing with others this countries beautiful views
With many photos the memories we will not lose
Love Cynthia





Day 5 - Tuesday 15th September

Everyone was in high spirits as we left the hotel at 10am and headed to Kitzbuhel. The Group boarded the cable cars, some more enthusiastically than others, and we headed up the mountain. At the top we were treated to a wonderful scenic view of the mountain tops. Then they all disappeared in the mist, only to reappear again. Very atmospheric! The weather was awesome other than that. Sunshine and blue skies. The Group made its way to the starting gates of the downhill ski slope. Keith Gibson and I getting to experience what it was like in the starting gate. Just as well there was no snow!

We then had lunch at the restaurant on the top of the mountain. A wee pug dog came to join some of the Group at their table. Then after making sure all our Group tops were clean Lesley found a spot on the mountain where we could get the Group photo taken. It was back onto the cable cars and down into Kitzbuhel for a quick walk round the town before heading back to the bus. Kenny & Derek bought trainers and the Group Leader would like to take this opportunity to apologise for holding up the bus departure. It was then back to the hotel for a wee rest before dinner.

After dinner it was another entertaining night with Karaoke we had a few of the other hotel guests join us and the carers did a special rendition of Perfect for Laura who joined us on skype from Hawick. It was a first class night again. Thanks to the committee, carers and VIPs for making our first trip with the Border Holiday Group a tatti filarious one.

Alison & Kenny



Day 6 - Wednesday 16th September

It was my turn to be Group Leader today. We all left the hotel after breakfast, boarded the Jumbulance and headed to Innsbruck. It was a lovely sunny day and on the way to Innsbruck, we passed a long line of lorries, queued in the opposite direction. They were waiting to get into Germany. We had a lovely day shopping and had a nice lunch. Everybody spent their money. Blair sang at the table whilst having lunch, "Just one Cornetto". We were also serenaded by three guys while having lunch. Julie was kissed by Charlie Chaplin. We saw the Golden Roof. Gavin bought a goffer hat which a few of the Group tried on.

We had loads of time in Innsbruck as the drivers had to take the bus to the garage to get the breaks fixed.

We returned home. For some reason a few of the carers were a bit wet after getting off the bus? We had another lovely evening meal then had a quiz. Gavin and Pete won, and Keith & Derek got the wooden spoon. I passed the bell onto Gavin.

Fran & Julie



Day 7 - Thursday 17th September

The morning started with a good breakfast, then to the Jumbalance for the trip to Salzburg and water gardens at Hellbrunn. The day was hot and everyone was looking forward to seeing the palace and garden. Once Gordon got us in!

The gardens were fab. Tricks from start to finish, everyone got wet, some more than others. Everyone enjoyed themselves. In the palace courtyard we enjoyed a light lunch of soup and a sweet, then we headed back to the Jumbalance, a few went to see the summer house from the Sound of Music before boarding the bus.

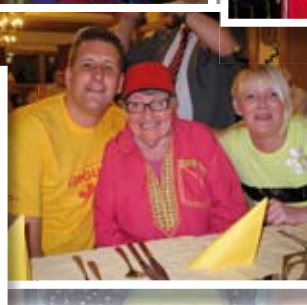
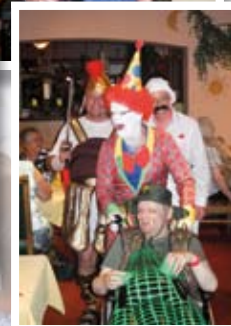
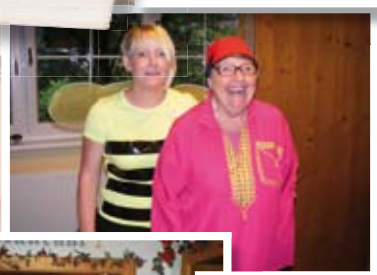
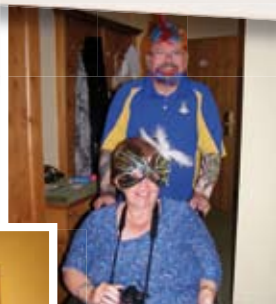
The trip back to the hotel took a little longer than it would normally due to the queues of traffic waiting to cross the border into Germany.

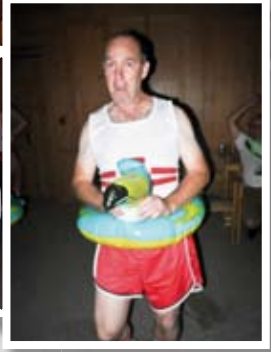
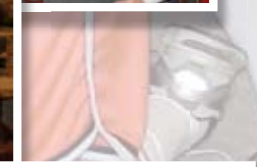
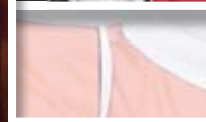
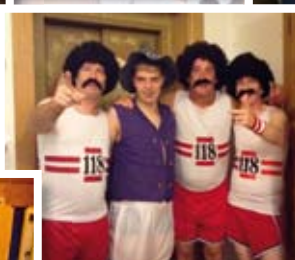
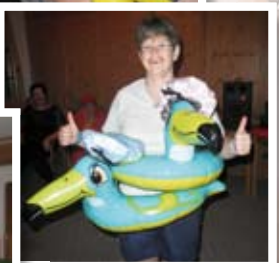
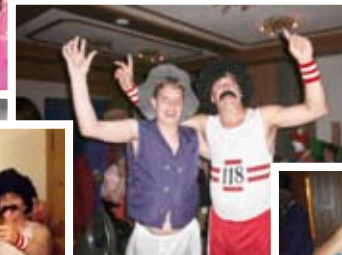
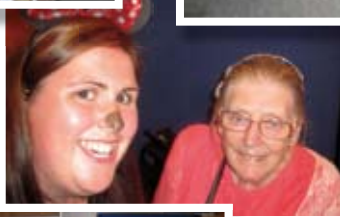
Once back at the hotel we had some free time, so it was down to the pool, where we had great fun. Around 5pm we started to get into our fancy dress outfits. We all met up downstairs, everyone looked great as we danced the conga round the hotel, much to the amusement of the other guests. After dinner we partied into the small hours, everyone enjoying themselves. Even Laura, at home in Hawick, joined in for a short time. I passed the bell onto Elma.

Gavin & Pete



Fancy Dress Party!!!!!!







Day 8 - Friday 18th September

Our last day in Austria, and my day as Group Leader. After breakfast we had to get our bags and cases packed ready for our departure later today.

Everyone was still in holiday mood, and as we had a free day some of the group had a walk round the village, others relaxed by the outdoor pool watching the para-gliders soaring overhead.

After lunch, Gordon, Lesley and Pauline had coffee on the terrace with the VIPs to allow the carers to have a bit free time. Some went on the cable car, others did a bit shopping and later met for coffee. Well that's what they told us!

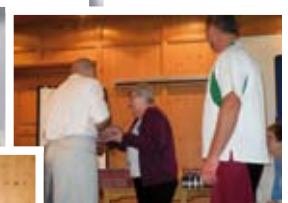
Before we left we had a presentation to the hotel staff and drivers, for all their care and kindness to us over the last week. All the VIPs received a certificate and gift from the Border Holiday Group which was really appreciated by all of us, and will bring back many happy memories for years to come.

After dinner it was time to get everyone back on the coach for the start of our long journey home. We got a lovely send off from the hotel staff, and some of the other guests.

Our overnight journey took us through Germany and into Holland.

A wonderful holiday, with a wonderful group of people. Lots of new friendships made, and lots of happy memories for us all.

Elma Beattie and Lorna



Day 9 - Saturday 19th September

After a long journey overnight we arrived at a service station in the Netherlands. Elma handed the bell over, just before the boys served breakfast. All carers got freshened up at the local service station some getting caught in a rather wet cloud burst of rain. We then took another short trip to the seaside resort Scheveningen. Before we got off the bus Jackie was presented with a birthday cake and gifts from the Group. We all did last minute shopping before lunch. Some VIPs watched the bungee jumpers at the pier before returning to the bus. Once everyone was aboard the bus the Birthday cake was served up. We then made the short trip to the boat. Once everyone got settled on board, and did last minute duty free shopping, we went for our last meal together. When the meal was over Keith then handed the bell over to Jane, before Gordon was there to oversee things! The rest of the night was spent dancing the night away on the dance floor.

Keith & Derek





Day 10 - Sunday 20th September

We were woken early on our last day of the 2015 Jumbulance trip, thanks to Julie, who had forgotten to change her clock! Which meant we had plenty time to get ready before going for a hearty breakfast. The Lovely Martin & Brendan went off to get the bus, and we gathered the Group and luggage together and made our way off the ferry. The drivers and bus were waiting for us so we all climbed aboard. It was a beautiful morning, warm sunshine and blue skies. Everyone was tired but we kept ourselves going.

At lunchtime we stopped to change driver, and lunch was conjured up from what was left on the bus, cuppa soups, crackers, cheese, yogurts & fruit loaf. All back on board and we continued up the M6. We delayed our return a little, by stopping for 19 tubs and 4 cones of ice cream in Langholm.

The inevitable time had arrived and we eventually saw the sign for Hawick. Gordon said his last few words as did Pauline, and as we turned into the Haugh friends & family were waving and smiling at our return.

Everyone got off the Jumbulance for the last time as another fantastic, fabulous fun week came to an end. A last big THANK YOU to Brendan & The Lovely Martin.

Jane & Jackie



What you might have missed:

We had a small detour round Washington as the drivers tried to locate the services - P&O said our booking had been cancelled for the ferry when we tried to check in - The Group Leader slept in on the ferry - We had another small detour on the Autobahn as the drivers tried to find a services - Germany closed it's Borders throwing our plans for the week up in the air - Nocturnal advance planning, followed by early morning hiding and camouflage of hydro ordnance - To be followed later with use of hydro ordnance - Various members of the Group got locked out their rooms at differing times - We forgot to get a prize for Play Your Cards Right! - The Group Leader walking round Kitzbuhel with Jackie's sunglasses on!



Babbles & Memorable Phrases



Gordon at Rotterdam Europort "how come there is only one lift up here when ther was two doonstairs yesterday?" Eh.. because we were in Hull yesterday and Rotterdam today!

"We have plenty liduting joice on the bus." "This bottle is already liduted." Lesley on diluting juice.

Gillian "Here is your shanger." (Shandy)

Pauline "Can I have a coke for Gabin?" (Gavin, also refered to as Gareth one day of the week.)

"Sit your bum's doon on your arses!" Gordon

Blair "I have just had a dear neth experience!"

"What are those little red things called? They were purple, did you see them?" Peter (We think they were artichokes.)

Gordon "Look at all those trucks on the lorry." HGV's on a train.

"Watch what you are doing, you don't want to get a bluiel!" Gillian

Gillian "You have just had a big breakfast, so you have just had a big stir fry."

"Scuse me, could you just squeeze your t@#%s in Gillian!" Pete asking Gillian to let him past



Gillian "My pen has run out of battery."



"Jullian..." Gordon

Jackie "Wait 'til I get the hegs on."

"I thought the busier was gaun ti be on the boat." Gillian

Jane "I had the squeaky beans last night" Green beans

"The Wimbles of Wombledon." Jackie



To be fair for most of the week we were all babbling, in fact it got so bad we lost track of them all!!!!

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

Staff and customers at Morrisons in Hawick, Sainsbury's in Hawick & Kelso and Adsa, Galashiels.
Hawick Cycling Club, Hawick Summer Festival, 1513 Club, Flodden Concert, Hawick Salvation Army,
The Golden Girls, Craig Motoer Kunho Tyres, Maxton 21 Club, Lloyds Motors Kelso,
Robertson Timber, Oregon Cake Club, Livingston Church Ladies, Buccleuch Hunt Supporters,
St. Boswells Coop/RFC, Hamish Turnbull & Friends, Barr Scott, John Burns a.k.a. Elvis,
Joe Carmichael, D. Rae, Mrs Aitchison, Mr & Mrs Neilson, Nick & Jackie Polowny, Ian & Nancy Fraser
and Weens Eventide Homes.

The Jumbulance drivers - brendan & The Lovely Martin, Gill & her staff at Hotel Sonnschien.
The care team, VIP's and all the friends and family who have baked, cooked, made sandwiches, manned bars
and sold tickets.

Thank You!



Thank You
to all who helped make
this possible!