



Our Virtual Expedition

17th January 2021

Headline Figures

Number of Teams Walking, Running, Cycling and Riding: 53

Distance Travelled: 1824 miles

Cumulative Distance Travelled: 3009 miles

Distance Still To Travel: 13,056 miles

Money Raised for the Ahtutu Charity so far £1179.34

If we thought we had done well in week 1, we seem to have smashed it in week 2. We have been stunned at the contributions on the Facebook Group Page. We were talking the other night at the madness we seem to have unleashed. You have embraced this virtual walking wholeheartedly, and then some.

Good to see Sue investing in a new spin bike ... and not just to catch Jayne up.

Lovely to see a number of new walkers this week. Please introduce yourselves on the Facebook group page.

Of the 60 legs available we now have only five left. If you know anyone who wants to join then that would be great. Otherwise I am sure we will knock those off between us.



Focus on Joan and Andy Wall



Name –TEAM JAWSPAWS (Joan&AndyWall'S PAWS (Dogs))

Locale – Ely for 25 years – so a newcomer. We prefer to walk in Norfolk or Suffolk as Fenland is so muddy this time of year.

Us – (Joan) Friend of Mary and go to Myanmar with Mary. (Andy) Computer support, lift giver, advice giver and support. (Paws) Archie and Mia our rescue Irish setters who keep us active and amused.

Why – To support Ahtutu and the lovely people of Myanmar. Might as well make our daily walks have a purpose

Best bit – remembering Myanmar and noticing “interesting” incidents on our walks.

Focus on Lynne, James and Chris

Name: Muppets to Myanmar aka Chris, Lynne & James
Locale: When not at home in our pond/bin/on set trailer ... beautiful Elveden.

About us: We've all found our way to Elveden by various meandering ways and like so many others are trying to navigate our way through the choppy uncharted territory of Covid 19 and Lockdown Part III ... we are fortunate to be doing so in such a beautiful location

Why UK to Myanmar 2021: Saw the post from Keith Gallois and even more gen from Mary Katherine and thought what a bloomin marvellous way to raise funds for a great cause whilst beating the Lockdown Blues (I think there's a song there somewhere).

Best bit so far: Apart from the whole 'mens sauna (sic) we have absolutely loved reading the diverse posts and pictures ... keeeeeep walking.



All in a name

We have had some great team names. Which is your favourite?

Beret Bunch
Mumbles Hash
Megs Mates
Redneck Rambler
Team JawPaws
One Lady and her Dog
Jelly Delly Legs
MM and Co
What a Hoot
Not Another Bloody Walk
Team Yogi

Roslin Ramblers
Bettserella
Viva Divas
Hickey Honeys
Team Whatahoot
Hopalong BexyBoots
The D'Silvas
Molly Mixtures
Are you sure it's this way
MoJoe
Cauther Wanderers

Dan Frickle Fan Club
Muppets to Myanmar
The Odd Couple
The Bushy Tails
RunWalkToddleCrawl
Whirling Dervishes
Are we there yet?
Absolutely Marpleous
Hiking Howes
Conner Clan
The Harpers

Ahtutu Charity - Why Myanmar Is So Special To Mary

In last weeks newsletter we gave details about the Ahtutu charity, a charity set up by Mary Durkacz and which is now supported by her wonderful friends. But what brought Mary to Myanmar in the first place?

Mary's dad, Bernard Kennedy, served as a Royal Marine Commando during the Second World War.

Against the wishes of his parents he volunteered for this elite unit aged just 19, against the wishes of his parents. Bernards training at the Commando Training Centre at Achanacarry Castle in the Highlands was to say the least, demanding. You may recall the famous Commando memorial at Spean Bridge, which honours these men.

Upon arrival at the nearest train station, the volunteers hoping to train as Commandos would disembark after their 14-hour journey and then speed march the 7 miles to the training centre, in full kit with weapon weighing a total of 36 pounds. Those not completing the march within 60 minutes were immediately returned to their units.

Bernard's first posting was to Burma (now Myanmar) as a member of V Force. V Force was a reconnaissance, intelligence-gathering and guerrilla organisation established by the British against Japanese forces. In April 1942, when the Japanese drove the British Army from Burma and seemed likely to invade India, General Sir Archibald Wavell ordered the creation of a guerrilla organisation which was to operate along the frontier between India and Burma. This frontier ran for 800 miles, from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal. V Force was envisaged as a "stay-behind" force. If the Japanese had invaded India after the monsoon season ended late in 1942, V Force was to harass their lines of communications with ambushes and sabotage, and to provide intelligence from behind enemy lines.



On March 12th 1944 in the Arakan area of Burma Bernard was critically wounded and left for dead. He was hit by a sniper's bullet. The Japanese then dragged Bernard into an open paddy, hoping his colleagues would try and recover his body and raking the ground with machine gun fire. With Marine Kennedy apparently killed the rest of his unit made their escape.

But Bernard was not dead. Although very badly wounded and blinded he was still alive. .

Local villagers recovered the wounded commando and eventually got Bernard to a British Army Field Hospital. Although sadly the wounds progressively took Bernards life, aged just 47, he had by that time married and had two children.

Bernards' extra years were no doubt largely due to the kindness and heroism of the Burmese villagers. That of course is clearly where Mary comes in. Her original connection with the country has grown massively, supported by a brilliant team, many of whom are doing this virtual walk.



Focus On Jane and Mark Denny

Team WhatAHoot!
Leg # 15

Bio: Was born and raised in Liverpool. Have also lived in Oxford, Edinburgh, Kent, Edinburgh and now Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Mark was born in Yorkshire so it is the Battle Of The Roses part 2.

Was fortunate to teach in all of the above mentioned places, and as a retired teacher, I recognize how the teaching of English to students in Myanmar can improve their life chances.

Met Mary decades ago when we were doing a course in Edinburgh and wanted to join in the fun in supporting her charity.

Am an ardent gardener and animal lover.

I thoroughly enjoy seeing participant's posts and photographs - especially of those dogs.



Focus on Sarah and Gigha, group name One Lady and her Dog.

Locale: I'm originally from Elveden but moved to Scotland 26 years ago and now live in the Village of Inverkip.

About us: I work as a Home care worker so that means I get to do a bit walking during my working day. Gigha is a 3 year old Border Collie from a farm near the village of Luss (made famous as it was the village of Glendaroch in take the TV Programme Take the High Road).

Why UK to Myanmar: Well at the start of the year a friend on Facebook mentioned that she is doing a 2000 mile walking challenge (virtually of course) and I thought I can easily do that so decided to join. Then Keith sent me a invite to this group so I decided to do that as well.

The best bit so far: Getting out of house exploring the local area (even in 26 years of being up here there's still places that I haven't walked) and rediscovering some walks that I haven't done in years. Plus I hope to lose some weight.



WOOF

Clearly many of you have dogs, so how's about a dog section in the newsletter. So send in:

Dogs name (and biccie)
Age

Model (or breed or whatever it is- I'm not a dog person).

Amusing anecdote



| Hopalong Bexy Boot - UK to Myanmar | | | | | | |
|---|-------|--------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Leg 52 Blue Mosque Istanbul to Botanical Gardens in Sofia, Bulgaria | | | | | | |
| 353 miles | | | | | | |
| Date | Miles | Steps | Calories used | Miles per week | Steps per week | Miles left to Sofia |
| 2/1 - 8/1 | 23.6 | 54,301 | | 23.6 | 54,301 | 329.4 |
| 9th January | 5 | 11,544 | 2018 | | | 324.4 |
| 10th January | 4.7 | 10,815 | 2,213 | | | 319.7 |
| 11th January | 7.3 | 16,746 | 2,182 | | | 312.4 |
| 12th January | 10.8 | 24,770 | 2,225 | | | 301.6 |
| 13th January | 3.5 | 7833 | 2053 | | | 298.1 |
| 14th January | 4.4 | 10,138 | 1632 | | | 293.7 |
| 15th January Friday | 4.9 | 11,272 | 2337 | | | 288.8 |



UK to Myanmar

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| B | D | C | H | I | T | T | A | G | O | N | G | F | A |
| W | B | K | M | A | R | D | B | T | G | D | E | B | N |
| O | A | L | O | T | A | D | E | D | H | H | R | R | I |
| N | T | A | R | A | N | I | O | L | O | A | O | U | E |
| K | R | W | A | A | O | S | N | A | Y | K | H | S | H |
| C | U | R | D | R | T | L | A | D | D | A | A | S | T |
| U | F | R | A | A | D | A | H | A | K | I | L | E | A |
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BELGRADE
SOFIA
PATNA
FRANKFURT
MORADABAD
ELY
BAGHDAD
ISLAMABAD
BRUSSELS
DOVER
ISTANBUL
LAHORE
CHITTAGONG
ISFAHAN
PATHEIN
LUCKNOW
ANKARA
DOGS
WALK
DHAKA

Lifes An Adventure

Okay, so this walk, whilst a challenge, is nice and safe and gentle. So tell us, what exciting places have you walked before? What misadventures did you get up too?

My biggest fear
about becoming
a zombie is all
the walking that
i'd have to do.

Cool Funny Quotes.com



STAY SAFE