



Expedition Newsletter

Welcome to the fourteenth of our regular news letters. One more issue and we're off.

Counting Down to zero

Do you realise there will only be one more Newsletter before we set off! Hasn't time flown by! When I issued the first newsletter the counter was on 454 days look at it now. Where have the 400 gone?

Sometimes organising this expedition has been tedious and tiring especially the paperwork aspects, but it occasionally it has lighter moments. Last weekend was one. I had the task of going through all your passports and visa applications. Some of you looked really cute when you had those passport photo's taken! Others (those with newer ones) are downright scary!

Rugby Shirts

We also had a big enough order for Rugby shirts so that has been placed. The daft thing is it was £10 cheaper to order 25 than the 18 we needed so we now have a few spares (3 have gone already) if anyone wants one. The sizes and colours we have left are:

Medium: 1 x Racing Green, 1 x Black, 1 x Red
Large: 1 x Black

All feature our Nepal badge embroidered onto the left breast. Cost is £14 each. First come first served.

Ripley Farmers Market

At January's market I was talking with Sally, one of the organisers, about future markets as technically we only had the tea stall until our departure. "You'd better find another reason to be here when you return" was her statement "You're part of this market now and in any case the stall holders will revolt if you stop coming"

Seems to me like you've really made an impact there and impressed more than a few people with your conduct and attitude. Give yourselves a big pat on the back and be proud of what you have achieved even if you didn't realise you were doing it

Website: www.eastexplorer.org.uk. It's been updated check it out.

In Brief

James Rimmer has raised £700 through his sponsored hike along the Downs Link. See article on page 2. Well done James

The Royal Grammar School Unit have donated the £252 proceeds from a raffle at their recent quiz night for our water project. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking them for this generous offer.

We have raised £560 from the Sale of farmers market bags for the water project. And trained a couple of budding salesmen in the process.



News Spotlight

The Next Expedition team meeting will be held on **Tuesday 20th February 2007** Venue Merrow Starting 19:30.

Sunday Ramble 4th February.

Anyone care to join me? If so meet up at the old town bridge (by Debenhams) in Guildford at 9 am. Will head out up past Henley Fort along to Compton, back via Artington and finish up walking back along the banks of the Wey. Approx 10km. Parents and brothers / sisters welcome to join us.

53 days to go and counting

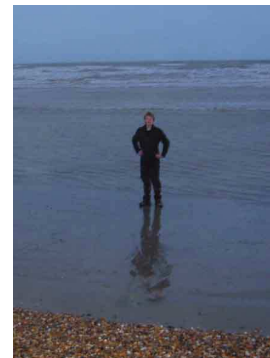


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A walk to the coast - by James and Paul Rimmer.

We started the walk at 7am on 2 Jan, heading off in the dark and seeing dawn come up over the North Downs as we headed from St Martha's towards Chinthurst Hill and the start of the route down the disused railway line that forms the main part of the walk. The old Bramley and Womersley railway station formed our first stop – the first of a number of disused railway stations en route. We called in on James's Grandfather at Birtley House in Bramley, (which incidentally was where Lady Baden-Powell spent her last days), for a much-needed cup of tea before heading on down the line. As the route followed the former railway, route finding was generally straightforward, though with a couple of tricky bits where it diverted – once because a tunnel was sealed to preserve a habitat for Pipistrelle bats, with just a grille to allow the bats to enter and leave the tunnel. We passed open countryside and occasional villages and towns, but often went for an hour or two without seeing a soul. After 25 miles, we had a much needed pizza in Southwater before reaching our B&B for the night.

Day 2 continued overcast, but we avoided rain and the South Downs came into view – a target that seemed a long way off in the morning! We crossed and re crossed the winding River Adur before reaching the end of the Downs Link proper just south of Bramber. Pretty tired and footsore by this point, the thought of our sponsorship money, some probably out of tune singing and a tennis ball, which we kicked along for the last 4km, kept us going. Soon we smelled the sea air and the river widened into an estuary and then the sea. The sight of Jill and Chris in our car was never so welcome!



Culture Corner

The Newsletter wouldn't be the same without this bit. This month it's useless facts about Nepal:

- Nepal's Flag is the only one in the world that isn't square. It is also asymmetrical.
- The highest located hotel in the world is the Everest View Hotel at an altitude of 3880m
- Nepal has an airline company called Buddha Air
- Annapurna is the world's deadliest peak
- The Kali Gandaki Gorge on the Kali Gandaki river (that's a surprise) is the deepest gorge in the world.
- One third of the Himalayan range is found in Nepal
- The time-zone offset in Nepal is 5:45.
- An elderly man from Nepal, 75 years of age, married a dog in a local custom to ensure good luck only to die three days later.