

Ian West, Newsletter 5.

Day 40

I can't believe it's this date already and people are asking me where I will be for Christmas. Well I know I will be on the west coast of U.K. but exactly where I am not sure at this stage. But I do know that I will be walking.

Today's walk has been no different to what I have been doing these past 4 or 5 days. The scenery has been beautiful and the people that I have met have been great to talk to. We have talked about the local area and all it has to offer. The walk from Torquay to my accommodation in Marlborough was very concentrated walking because the roads were tight, but they were safe. Most of the days leading up to this point have been similar, so I will write my stories on a weekly basis. So I will say bye for now.

Leaving Liskeard on 6th December was a brilliant walk and even the rain and heavy clouds didn't put me off. It took me at least one and a half hours extra because of the roads but I still enjoyed it. I arrived at Polruan to catch the small ferry to Fowey. I got there early because I was told it closed at 1600, but I didn't have to rush because it didn't close until 1900. Well I am glad I was early because I took some fabalax photos of the harbour and of Fowey, which I will post later. After a great day I arrived at my accommodation in St Austell a little late but worth it. All the accommodations I have used so far have been very good some with breakfast included which have also been good. It will be my 34th accommodation used so far.

Well I arrived at a place called St Mawes today. I didn't think the ferry was working because the day was not very nice. However, I was in luck, you couldn't see much but I was hoping the weather would lift. As we were crossing the harbour to Falmouth I noticed two RFA ships (Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships) that work with the navy. With supplies, fuel and other commodities required when you're at sea. They transfer the items across on ropes pulling backward and forward whilst the ships are side by side approximately 500feet apart. It is called RAS at sea (look on YouTube RAS at sea with the Royal Navy) very interesting. Anyway to carry on, it was RFA Argus (no not the shop LOL). They are based at Falmouth, pictures later. Going alongside brought me fond memories once again. The weather lifted and I took some photos. The accommodation I was staying at was called Jacobs

ladder, I wondered why. I soon found out however and to my amazement I had to walk up all 111 steps counting them on the way, it was great on my legs. You can walk around but I wanted to climb the steps. Yet again more memories of Gibraltar. The accommodation was very comfortable and a pleasant stay. No breakfast so I had a sausage cob on the hoof. I am doing that regularly now. I know what you are thinking fatty boy, but I am burning it off.

The walk down to the lizard was good but I expected that because I used the road more because I wanted to give my calf muscles a rest, it does work. Yet again another small ferry but enjoyable. The scenery and views at the Lizard were spectacular. When I stood on the Lizard Point I remembered reading about rescues at sea. I closed my eyes and I could imagine the sailing ships (similar to HMS Victory) going along the coast. With the conditions in this area I could see how easy it was for a ship to get wrecked on the rocks. I had a wonderful time there and I met a family of five visiting from Worcester. I had a coffee in the most southerly cafe of the UK. The stay at the YHA Lizard was nice but a little more expensive than the normal YHAs.

The following day I was aiming to get to YHA Penzance and use that as a base for a day or so. I'm doing it that way because it's cheaper. The journey to Lands End was another fabal walk, yet again I wasn't disappointed. The scenery and views speak for themselves (pictures later). I did the coastal path for some of it but the cliffs were a little too close for comfort in places. At one stage I was taking photos laid on my tummy because there wasn't a lot between the path and the edge. Remember earlier I was talking about wrecks, well I saw one. It's was wrecked in 2003, I took a photo of the ship. Apparently the captain or whoever was in charge fell unconscious and the ship hit the rocks. I did a little video of my lands end caper, I had to laugh. It was a special walk and I got back to the YHA Penzance feeling wonderful. Well worth the effort.

Well I will close this newsletter here by saying I do hope you enjoy my stories. Have a great Christmas wherever you are and a Happy New Year to you all. It's wonderful to know you all.

Best wishes

Ian