

TRAVEL ITINERARY FOR 41 CLUB GROUP TO

THE U.K. AND IRELAND ~ APRIL/MAY 2003

April, 2003.

Sat. 19 Today all members of the group will arrive in Auckland via their own travel arrangements.

We will all be staying the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Corner Kirkbride and Ascot Roads, Mangere, which is close to Auckland International Airport.

At 7.30pm tonight, there will be a group meeting in the Hotel Conference Room, where we will all have a chance to meet other members of the group.

A few matters of general housekeeping will also be tidied up.

Dinner will be at your expense.

Sun. 20 AUCKLAND – LOS ANGELES – LONDON

Today will be a free day in and around Auckland – enabling you to do as you wish.

Breakfast will be at your expense today.

One suggestion is a visit to the Otara Market. If you haven't "been and seen", it is well worth a visit. It is Polynesia in Auckland, and is not too far from the hotel. Get yourselves a shuttle if you wish to do this.

Other things include the Sky Tower for great views over the city and harbour – this will cost you \$15.00 each to the main observation deck, and another \$3.00 per head to go up to the higher observation deck – again shuttles are a cheap way to travel.

We will arrange for a room to be available for all your luggage to be safely stored for the duration of the day.

Please ensure that you are back in the hotel no later than 4.30pm

You will need to have your luggage (all that is going in the aircraft's hold) in the hotel lobby by 5.00pm, so that it can be taken to the Air New Zealand counter at Auckland International Airport for check in.

Shuttles have been arranged who will then bring you to the Airport, where you will complete your check-in for the flight to Los Angeles.

When you leave the hotel, please make sure you have paid any charges you may have incurred, including any meals or toll calls.

You will depart from Auckland International Airport on Air New Zealand Flight **NZ 2**, leaving at 8.45pm and arriving in Los Angeles at 1.45pm (local time) on Sunday, April 20th. We will cross the International Date Line during the flight and have Sunday all over again. However, you give it back by losing a day on the way home!!.

During the 12 hour non-stop flight you will served dinner and brunch.

On arrival at you will have a wait in the International Transfer Lounge at Los Angeles, of about 3½ hours before departure for London Heathrow.

At 5.30pm (local L.A. time) we will leave Los Angeles on board Virgin Atlantic Flight **VS 008** for London's Heathrow Airport.

This will be an 11 hour flight, taking us north over the United States and across Hudson Bay in Canada, before crossing the southern tip of Greenland, then coming down over Scotland and finally into Heathrow.

During the flight you will served dinner and breakfast.

We will arrive at Heathrow at 11.45am (local time) on Monday, April 21st.

Mon. 21 BOURNEMOUTH (D.) *Hotel Accommodation*

After you have cleared through the English Immigration and Customs, having collected all your luggage, please proceed to the area just at the end of the long corridor, where there will be a lot of people waiting for incoming passengers.

Please wait until the entire group has come out of Customs, and gather members of the group together as they come out.

Then we will all proceed outside to the Coach waiting area, where John Eddy will be waiting for us, with our Tally Ho Coach. The drivers are not allowed to leave their coaches unattended, so we must look for him – believe me, he is not hard to find!!!!!!

On leaving Heathrow, John will take us south to Bournemouth where we will stay for the next three nights.

Our hotel is The Heathlands Hotel – www.heathlandshotel.com.

There are a full range of facilities, and as well as being close to the beach, it is close to town for your enjoyment.

Tues. 22 BOURNEMOUTH (B. D.) *Hotel Accommodation*

Today is your day – a day in which to do exactly as you wish – relax, get to know the others in the group, have a wander around – whatever takes your fancy

Lunch will be at your expense today.

Wed. 23 BOURNEMOUTH (B. D.)

Another day of R. & R.

Once again lunch is at your expense.

Thurs. 24 BOURNEMOUTH TO LONDON (B) *Hotel Accommodation*

This morning John will collect us at 9.30am in the coach, and we will head off back to London and the start of the trip proper.

You should be well rested by now, and your batteries fully charged.

You will be staying at the Thistle City Barbican Hotel, located at 120 Central Street, Clerkenwell, London. This is a very central location in London.

All rooms offer en suite facilities, trouser press, hair dryer, tea and coffee making facilities, and TV with satellite channels.

There is also the Otium health and Leisure Club with swimming pool, jacuzzi and gym, and these facilities are complimentary for hotel guests.

Have a look at www.thistlehotels.com and search for the City Barbican.

Today is free for you to explore London at your leisure, and do just what you want to do.

Lunch and dinner are at your expense.

Fri. 25 LONDON (B, D) *Hotel Accommodation*

Today John Eddy will take you for a scenic bus trip around the city, pointing out land marks on the way.

This morning's highlight will be a ride on the London Eye – a huge wheel, built as part of the Millennium celebrations and rising to something like 425 feet above the River Thames. We have reserved two pods (each capable of holding 25 people) for our group, and the ride takes about 35 to 40 minutes. Make sure you have plenty of film with you, as the views over London are truly amazing.

Following on from the Eye, John will take us to Windsor Castle and the Chapel, where all the Kings and Queens are celebrated, and where you will be able to see the last resting place of King George VI and the beloved Queen Mother who has just recently passed away.

Lunch will be at your expense today.

We will have dinner as a group tonight at our hotel.

Sat. 26 LONDON – CANTERBURY (B) *Canterbury 41 Club*

This morning you will leave the City of London (and marvel at how John actually finds his way out of it!!).

Our destination is the Cathedral city of Canterbury, south east of London, and a drive of about 100kms.

On arrival in Canterbury at about lunchtime, we will be met by our hosts, at the White Horse Pub and share a traditional pub lunch with them, before leaving the pub at about 3.00pm to go home with our hosts. The cost of this meal will be £12.50 per head plus your drinks.

Time to unwind, and get ready for an evening meal out with all the members of Canterbury 41 Club – an evening of getting to know each other.

If you have not experienced home hosting before, this will be a wonderful new experience for you, and you will get a unique opportunity to see how people live their daily lives in another country.

Tonight we will be joining members of the Canterbury 41 Club at the Abbots Barton Hotel for an informal 4 course dinner, plus English wine (if you are brave enough!!). There will also be (to use our host's words) some sensible music for a little dancing, along with minimum formalities. Midnight should see us heading for bed.

Sun 27 CANTERBURY

After enjoying breakfast with your hosts, you will undertake a short trip around the Canterbury, visiting the Cathedral, and surrounding area, before meeting at a nice Kentish Pub for a traditional English lunch.

After that, and a few pints, it may well be time to relax at a member's home and get to know your hosts even better.

Mon. 28 CANTERBURY – WINCHESTER *Winchester 41 Club*

This morning will be the first of many farewells to your hosts – and they don't get any easier either!!.

We leave Canterbury this morning and head to Winchester, where another group of hosts is waiting for us.

Tues. 29 WINCHESTER

Today you are with your hosts in a town which boasts a huge King Arthur type Round Table – no doubt you will be taken to see it.

Wed. 30 WINCHESTER TO RUARDEN *Forest of Dean & Gloucester 41 Clubs*

Time for yet another farewell, as we leave Winchester, and head west across the River Severn to meet our hosts for the next two nights.

On the way to Ruarden, we will visit the well-known Gloucester Cathedral and travel across the Brecon Beacons, a rather distinctive part of the Welsh countryside.

Tonight you will be going down to the pub to meet the locals., and to have something to eat – there will be a cost of £7.50 per head.

You will staying with members of the two Clubs, as they are both offering their homes to the group members.

Have a look at this website: www.thisisgloucestershire.co.uk

**May 2003
Thurs. 01**

RUARDEN AND GLOUCESTER

Today will include a visit to the Forest of Dean, where you will learn something of its history.

The day will end with an informal gathering of our group and the members of both Forest of Dean and the Gloucester 41 Clubs.

Tonight – you guessed it another pub night out – at The Butcher’s Arms Hotel in Clearwell.!! We will be joined by all local members, plus the National President of 41 Club and his wife. Allow £12.50 per head for this evening’s meal.

Fri. 02 RUARDEN – NEWTON *Newtown 41 Club*

When you leave Ruarden this morning, it is only a short drive before you cross into Wales. Your drive today will reveal place names with seemingly impossible pronunciations, but listen carefully to the locals – it is a beautiful language to hear spoken by the Welsh.

Our Welsh hosts will be waiting for us, and be warned – you may well be introduced to a game that you wont have played since you were a child – yet it is still played here, and there are even International Tournaments in it – a traditional sport in this area called “quoiting” – remember the quoits you had as a child??

Have a look at this website: www.midwalesindex.co.uk/pages/703.html

Sat. 03 NEWTOWN

A day in the heartland of Wales.

Tonight we will be sharing our meal with our hosts.

Sun. 04 NEWTOWN – CHIRK

Following your farewells to your Newtown hosts, it is only a short drive north to Chirk, where we will be leaving the coach at the Chirk Marina.

On the way to Chirk, the coach will stop in a town, where you can buy the necessary food and drink for your three nights on the canal boats

We will be joined at Chirk Marina by Brenda and Ross McSweeney, members of Johannesburg 41 Club in South Africa and Brenda's brother and sister in law. They will be with us until we leave Chirk on Wednesday morning - enjoy their company, they are great people.

Once you have stowed your luggage on your allotted canal boat, and your boat captain has had his/her safety briefing, it will be time to cast off the mooring ropes and head out into the Llangollen canal system.

Have a look at www.blackprince.com and get an idea of the boats we will be travelling on, as well as their layout.

As you leave the Marina, if you turn left, about an hour away you will be able to cross the Pontcyyllte Aqueduct, more than 1000 feet long and 126 feet above the River Dee. This will really take your breath away.

Go to the right, and endless canals await your exploration.

Keep an eye out for the small canal side pubs - a great place to tie up and have a meal along with a drink.

Don't be at all surprised if someone out walking their dog, catches up to you and passes you as you go along – the pace is really leisurely.

Mon. 05 ON THE CANAL BOATS

Today you are the master of your own destiny.

After a good night's sleep, (which you may well need, following a riotous night in a canal side pub!!), cast off the ropes, and see where you get to.

Another night moored somewhere alongside the canal.

There is a "gentleman's' rule" on the canals, that no-one moves between 8.00pm and 8.00am, so be assured you will get plenty of rest. Make the most of it, because once we get off the canal boats, it will be all go.

Tues. 06 ON THE CANAL BOATS

Yet another day to explore the canal system, but tonight, you must have your canal boat back at the Chirk Marina by 5.00pm.

This is so that boats can be cleaned and prepared for further usage the next day.

Tonight we will staying at the Morton park Hotel in Chirk, very close to the Marina

Have a look at www.moretonpark.com

Dinner will be at your expense.

Wed. 07 CHIRK – WETHERAL

Border 41 Club

From Chirk, you will head north, up the western side of England, until you arrive in the town of Wetheral – not too far from the large city of Carlisle, and more hosts will be waiting to greet you.

Look at these websites: www.historic-carlisle.org.uk

www.carlisesborderlands.co.uk

www.golakes.co.uk

www.lake-district-breaks.com

www.hadrians-wall.org

Tonight we will share a buffet meal at the restaurant of a 41'er, Mike Armstrong, with members and their ladies of the Border 41 Club.

Thurs. 08 WETHERAL

Today, weather permitting (!!!) our hosts will take us visit the Roman Wall and its associated sites – there is much to see.

Should the weather be bad, there are museums to visit to escape the Cumbrian downpours!!.

Fri. 09 WETHERAL – FORFAR *Forfar 41 Club*

Today, the coach will head north east from Wetheral towards Scotland.

You will pass through Edinburgh, with time for a short stopover in this old Scottish city.

After leaving Edinburgh, John will head towards Dundee, crossing the Firth of Tay on the way, then inland to the County of Angus, and the town of Forfar, where your first taste of Scottish hospitality awaits you.

If you thought you were having trouble with the Welsh accents, see how you go with a true blue Scot!!!.

Sat.10 FORFAR

Our hosts are planning a trip to have a look through Glamis Castle and Gardens, which was of course an early home for the late Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth 1st.

Lunch will be at your expense today – somewhere around £7 per head.

Tonight Forfar members are organising an evening function for us, with an estimated cost to you of £20 per person.

Sun. 11 FORFAR – INVERNESS *Inverness 41 Club*

From the farewells at Forfar, it is north to the coastal city of Aberdeen, before heading west again to arrive at your next stop – Inverness, which sits at the top of the famous Loch Ness. Maybe Nessie will make a special appearance for us??.

On arrival in Inverness, you will be met by your hosts and share a soup and sandwich lunch with them.

Then it will be home with your hosts for some time together and to get to know each other.

There will be time this afternoon to visit the Holm Woollen Mills which can provide a selection of Scottish gifts to take home, as well as all things Tartan.

This evening, the group is being split into three house parties for dinner and drinks.

Mon. 12 INVERNESS

Today your hosts will take you to see several areas of interest and options will include a visit to Loch Ness and its Monster Exhibition, together with historic Castle Urquhart on the shore of Loch Ness which has a new audio visual visitors' centre and restaurant.

Another option is a visit to the Culloden Moor Battlefield with its excellent audio/visual presentation/restaurant, which will provide a significant insight into the History of the Jacobite uprising in 1745, and of the Scottish clearances and the English armies domination of the Highland for so many years thereafter.

Cawdor Castle with its links to MacBeath and the witches is very close by, as is Fort George, a very significant bastion, built to subdue the Highlanders after Culloden, but which never fired a shot in anger from its battery of cannon.

Everywhere around all of these sites, we will be blessed with magnificent scenery and wildlife, and sadly, we can only get a taste of it on such a short visit.

This evening we, and our hosts, are being hosted by the Provost and Councillors of the Inverness Area at a Drinks and Finger Buffet reception in the Town Hall.

Following this reception, we will be walking, (or by coach if raining), a short distance to The Inverness British Legion Club on the banks of the River Ness, where we will enjoy a Buffet Dance and Ceilidh – definition of a Ceilidh (Kaylee) – a distillery set to music!!!!.

Tues. 13 INVERNESS – HELENSBURGH *Helensburgh 41 Club*

Time to leave this northern part of Scotland behind, and head south towards the west coast and your hosts waiting to greet you in Helensburgh – a town about 20kms from Glasgow.

After a 10.00am departure, we will have a journey of about 1½ hours to Fort William, where we will be able to visit the Ben Nevis Distillery, managed by a 41'er, Colin Ross.

Lunch will be available (at our discretion) in the distillery restaurant.

Then it will be back onto the coach, and south to Helensburgh.

Wed. 14 HELENSBURGH

What do your hosts have planned today??

Tonight we will be attending a Dinner celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Charter of Helensburgh 41 Club.

Thurs. 15 HELENSBURGH – LARNE *Six Mile 41 Club*

After saying our farewells this morning, it is only a relatively short coach ride to the town of Ayr – birthplace of the Scottish poet, Robbie Burns – for a morning tea stop with members of the Ayr 41 Club.

From Ayr, it is yet another short drive down the west coast of Scotland to the port of Stranraer, in Loch Ryan.

It is from here that you, and the coach, will board to Stena Line fast ferry at 2. 45pm for the 1 3/4 hour crossing of the North Sea to the Northern Ireland port of Belfast, where we will arrive at 4.30pm.

Have a look at www.stenaline.com. I understand that these ferries have 2 DC10 Aircraft jet engines and 2 Stealth Bomber jet engines as their propulsion. You will be surprised, not only by their size, but also at the speed at which they travel.

Members of Six Mile 41 Club – our hosts for tonight – are to meet us when we disembark from the ferry in Belfast, and accompany us to Larne, just to the north of Belfast.

Fri. 16 LARNE – COLERAINE *Coleraine 41 Club*

This morning, we are to be taken for a guided tour on the coach, through the much maligned city of Belfast – our hosts emphasize that Belfast is probably the safest city in the U.K.

While most of us on the bus trip, four of our group will be playing a round of golf at a very picturesque Irish golf course. They will have something to tell us the way to Coleraine this afternoon no doubt!!!!.

Lunch will be somewhere between Belfast and Larne, (*“in some sort of salubrious venue which is not too expensive”* - to quote our hosts!!) .

Another possibility for those not wishing to play golf, is a visit to Carrickfergus Castle, a Norman edifice where the famous King William landed in 1688 or thereabouts.

Of course, you can always just have a lazy morning with your hosts.

Late this afternoon, you will head north west to Coleraine and another set of new hosts.

On arrival, at about 4.00pm, we will be met by local 41 Club members at the Coleraine Council Offices, where the Mayor of Coleraine will host a reception for us.

Following the reception, we will go with our hosts to their homes, or those staying in B & B will go there to tidy up.

This evening's entertainment will be in the hands of the individual hosts.

Sat. 17 COLERAINE

This morning, we will leave at 10.00am to visit the famous Giant's Causeway.

Lunch (which will be at your expense) will be served in the Old Bushmills Distillery, followed by a tour of the premises, and some sampling.

On the way back to Coleraine, we will be calling at Dunluce Castle to explore the ruins.

Then it will be time to head home and tidy up for this evening's entertainment.

At 7.30pm everyone will gather at Portstewart Golf Club for drinks, dinner, some Irish dancing and lots of music.

Sun. 18 COLERAINE – KILLARNEY (D) *Hotel Accommodation*

An 8.30am start will make today the longest day you will spend on the coach as you travel south through firstly Northern Ireland, then cross into The Republic of Ireland, and finally arriving in the city of Killarney.

While we are in Southern Ireland, we are effectively in the E.E.C., so the currency will change to the new Euros – something else to experience!!!

We will be staying for the next three nights at the Evistan Hotel in Killarney, where our rooms will have en suite facilities, a hospitality try, multi channel TV, hair dryer and a telephone.

Have a look at www.killarney-hotel.com

When you look at this website, click on “Kerry Guide” at the bottom of the menu bar on the left hand side

Mon. 19 KILLARNEY (B, D) *Hotel Accommodation*

A resting day today after yesterday’s long drive – time to take in the sights, smells and sounds of Ireland at your own pace.

Lunch will be at your expense today

Tues. 20 KILLARNEY (B, D) *Hotel Accommodation*

This morning it will be time to get back on board the coach, and enjoy the sights of a famous Irish tourist trip – The Ring of Kerry – it is an all day trip, so relax and enjoy the experience.

Lunch will be at your expense today.

Wed. 21 KILLARNEY – WEXFORD (B) *Wexford 41 Club*

A look at your map of Ireland will show you that the ride today will take you through places with well known names such as Cork, Waterford (home of the crystal), and who knows, John may even know of a small Irish pub near Dungarvan where he can stop while we partake of a Guinness.

Lunch will be at your expense today.

Our last hosts in Ireland will be waiting for us at Wexford on our arrival.

Tonight we will be staying with members of Wexford 41 Club and Wexford Round Table in their homes.

Thurs. 22 WEXFORD

Who knows what is planned here??.

Tonight we will be staying at St. Helens Hotel in Rosslare, to enable us to be ready for tomorrow’s early departure for Fishguard in Wales.

Fri. 23 WEXFORD – CWMBRAN *Cwmbran 41 Club*

This will be another interesting day, with a variety of travel modes.

After saying your good-byes, it will be down to the wharf at Rosslare, to catch the Stena Line ferry across to Fishguard in Wales.

It will mean an early start as we will depart Rosslare at 9.00 am and arrive at Fishguard at 12.30pm.

From there we will travel across Southern Wales to our last hosts at the small Welsh town of Cwmbran, just north of Newport.

We will be hosted by three 41 Clubs – Cwmbran, Risca and Newport, so we will be spread around the area a bit.

On arrival in Risca, we will be met by our hosts, with the arrangements for tonight being made by each Club. There will be informal entertainment at no cost to us.

Sat. 24 CWMBRAN

Promptly at 9.45am this morning we meet up with our coach at the County Hall, Cwmbran for the trip to St. Fagans, where we will spend the day.

Lunch at St. Fagans will be at your expense.

At 3.45pm we leave St. Fagans and return to Cwmbran, arriving at 4.30pm, where we will meet up again with our hosts, prior to returning to their homes.

This evening we will be attending a Medieval Banquet at Caldicot Castle, complete with hand maidens, carousing and “good fun with gracious behaviour”. The order of the evening will be eat, drink (drink some more!!) and be merry.

The cost of tonight’s entertainment is included in your tour costing.

Sun. 25 CWMBRAN – LONDON (D) *Hotel Accommodation*

This will be your last opportunity to say “Thank you” to your hosts, as you board the coach for the last long trip back to London.

On arrival in London, John will take you back to the City Barbican Hotel.

Then it will be time for everyone to say “Goodbye and thank you for a wonderful trip” to John - this is written from experiences in his company stretching back 23 years to 1980 when he took the first group of New Zealand 41 Club members around the U.K.

You be the judge, but you will, by now, know what is meant.

A final group dinner will be held at the hotel – costs included in your tour costing.

Mon. 26 LONDON (B) *Hotel Accommodation*

A day when you please yourself when you get up and what you do – a chance to do some last minute shopping if you are heading home soon, or maybe a chance to visit some of the famous sights and buildings that make London the city it really is.

Tues. 27 LONDON (B)

Today marks the end of the 41 Club tour, and from here on your own arrangements will decide what you do.

Thank you for taking part in this trip and for your support as we travelled around together.

You will be required to vacate your room by 10.00am this morning, but the hotel does provide a secure storage room for your cases etc, should you wish to leave them there until later in the day.

Wishing you a safe journey home.