

Final days

Tongue to John O'Groats to Harold Wood

● Friday 25th September - Day - Last one

Paul wakes during the night to hear the wind whistling around the house and it sounds constant. Fervent prayer and planning for the possibility of not being able to reach our goal because the wind might make it too dangerous - it sounded that bad. We've got this far so God wouldn't stop us now would He? We've weakened and booked a taxi and trailer to take us from JOG to Wick at 6pm so once we reach there we won't have to do the extra 17 miles to get to our B & B. We leave at 7.15 just to make sure we have plenty of time. When we get outside, the weather doesn't seem dangerously windy and it's dry so we set off. Though the wind is strong at times, it is northerly, it is mainly cutting across us and the road meanders along the coast so there is not constant battling with the wind. Ian pushes on ahead to get a spoke replaced at the nearest bike shop in 50 miles (Thurso) We pass the 1000 mile barrier at Bettyhill, lunch at Thurso where we catch up with Ian and the locals look at us as if we have come from another planet. Then the final 20 miles to JOG (64 miles) and the triumphant entry with the crowds cheering, flags being waved, the media swarming - well we saw some other Lejoggers and they gave us a wave and a hearty 'Well done' to which we reciprocated in enthusiastic fashion.

We celebrated with a 'nice cup of tea, Grommet' and a bun before Ian went off to do his final drawing for the trip. Han and Paul loitered around the few, open, dry and warm souvenir shops engaging in conversation with anybody who seem remotely interested in what we had achieved, and thus hasten our departure from the place we had strived so hard to reach.

Taxi comes just in the nick of time before we are thrown out of the last open souvenir shop (that would be a first) and we ride in luxury to Wick - good decision!!

Total 1045 miles

● Saturday 26th September

Caught 8am train from Wick and eventually arrive home at 1am on Sunday.