

Walk raises awareness and cash for charities

Belgian homeopath, author and teacher Anne Vervarcke is walking across Europe to raise awareness about homeopathy, join colleagues together and to raise money for homeopathic projects. She has been all over Europe and beyond, even stopping off at the Society's AGM in Bristol. Here, she talks about the experience.

The Walk for Homeopathy (The Next Step) started on my 60th birthday in the North of Holland. There were several reasons for that: I got many invitation from Dutch homeopaths, the country is flat and they speak my language. Since nobody had done this before, we had to invent how to do it along the way. And as I was going to walk into the winter, the idea was that Holland would be my pilot country. If that went well, I would continue and if not I would round it up by the end of the year.

The motto of the walk is: walk-heal-link. In these difficult times, homeopaths should reflect on their weak and their strong points and unite, work together and connect to all true healers, no matter what method they follow. Walking is a good way to get to know each other and to walk together is a powerful symbol.

Christel Lombaerts, a former student of mine, volunteered to be the coordinator. There couldn't have



Anne at Bristol Temple Meads station for the Society AGM



Anne with Jeremy Sherr

been a better one. She created a blog with all the practical information, pictures and a web shop. Anybody who would like to walk with me can see where I am going to be and when.

In the North of Holland I followed a well-known hiking track, which goes all the way south. It's about 500km of which I did almost half. There were days I walked alone and days others walked with me. I gave lectures and saw patients, most of the time with homeopaths sitting in. The weather was extremely mild and sunny, the heaths and woods beautiful. This was a great start. I was warmly received everywhere, there were meetings with local groups of homeopaths, a few little articles in the newspapers and many patients.

It started to snow at the beginning of December and from then on it seemed that whenever I stuck my nose out of the door, it started to snow. I've never seen so much snow in my life. It snowed in Belgium in January; it snowed in February and March in Germany. The snowy landscapes were so fabulous and I was lucky to be able to enjoy them.

I rounded off the walk in the Netherlands and Belgium with a celebration and a dance party. In the evening on arrival at my overnight stop, I wrote my blog, put some news on Facebook and made movie clips of the pictures. It is maybe hard to imagine but I spend a few hours per day at the computer. On the walk I



In Greece with George Vithoulkas

am still at work and the computer allows me to do both.

Many people follow the blogs and Facebook, and it is heart warming to receive encouragements from all over the world. It supports and validates what I'm doing. By stepping out into the open and the unknown, it is an appeal for others to join me. I think we should show who we are and what we are doing and demand the freedom for everybody to choose whether they want the kind of healing we offer or not. I call it symbolic because I am not trying to get in contact with the 'officials', I'm not fighting and not using their weapons. But the message is that everybody has a gift to give to the world and everybody can do something. And this is an even more powerful tool. The walk brings encouragement and hope.

Three times I had the great pleasure to hand over a cheque for more than 2000 Euros to homeopathic projects doing work in third world countries. This was the result of the total sum of money collected by my work (consultations, lectures, and seminars) and donations from people. The next project I am walking for is Carol Boyce's movie on "homeopathy on the farm".

The longer I walk the more the nomadic existence pleases me. The feeling I am on my path becomes stronger with the day. Gradually the meaning of the name of the project 'The Next Step' becomes clearer.

I'll end the walk by trekking to Paris from about 150 km north, along the GR12, a famous hiking track, that is already on our blog, with all the villages and train stops, to end at Hahnemann's grave on October 15. We want to arrive there with a big crowd, so please join us all!

For more information, see Anne's blogs at walkforhomeopathy.wordpress.com and her facebook page. Her website www.thewhiteroom.be has links