

Travel Wise

The Newsletter of the British Travel Health Association



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Patrons: Sir Christian Bonington CBE and Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE, DSc (Hon), FRGS

CONTENTS

Page 2	Question and Answer World Rabbits Day
Page 3	Courses and Conferences
Page 4 and 5	Book Review
Page 6	Have wheelchair will travel
Page 7	Disabled travellers
Page 8	From the Journal
Page 9	It started with leg wax (part 3)
Page 10	BTHA Conference report
Page 11	Case Studies on Diarrhoea
Page 12	Recent out breaks

Bulletin Board

BTHA Secretariat will provide information on how to join the Association. Contact BTHA at PO Box 336, Sale, M33 3UU. Tel 0845 003 9197, Fax 0870 005 3521. Email: info@btha.org Website www.btha.org
BTHA Executive committee members and current office holders are Eric Walker (President) John Davies (Chairman), Iain McIntosh (Deputy Chairman), George Kassianos (Hon Secretary), Julie Gallagher (Hon Treasurer), Sarah Buckley, Regie Cooke, Larry Goodyer, Claire Stringer, Damian Williams (Deputy Treasurer), Mike Townend (co-opted), Kitty Smith (co-opted).

BTHA Publications sub committee, Iain McIntosh (Editor in Chief), Sarah Buckley (Editor Journal) Julie Gallagher (Editor Travel Wise) Larry Goodyer, Reggie Cooke, Jane Wilson-Howarth, Ray Walker, Elaine Richardson, Sandra Grieve.

Services to members include:

- Research grant of up to £500
- Education Bursary of up to £300
- Four issues of Travelwise per year
- Two issues of the BTHA Journal per year
- Reduced subscription to Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease
- Reduced fee for the BTHA Annual Scientific Meeting

Contact the Secretariat or visit the website for details of these services. info@btha.org

If you are not yet a member of the BTHA and would like to join, or you are a member and would like to take a more active part, for example by joining one of the subcommittees or helping to organise BTHA activities, please contact the Secretariat or visit the website. BTHA subcommittees include:

- Education
- Research
- Publications
- Conference organisation



Travel Medicine and the effects that travel can have, has been hitting the headlines this summer. From the tragic plane crash at Madrid Airport and the death of 150 passengers to the Scottish Journalist who experienced severe heat stroke and eventually a cardiac arrest when she accompanied troops on manoeuvres in Iraq. Thankfully by the time of cardiac arrest she was in the hands of the extremely competent British Army Field Medical team. Their prompt action and teamwork while transporting the journalist in the back of a helicopter saved her life. Her experience however highlights the importance of preparing our travellers not just for the diseases they might meet but also the environment they will enter. It is not just for Altitude and diving, we should be advising acclimatisation. Extremes of temperature are just as important to discuss. The forthcoming BTHA travel health and Tropical Medicine Tour will allow members to learn a lot more about climate and altitude challenges.

Contact Diane at info@btha.org for more info.

This summer has seen the 60th Anniversary of the NHS and the 10th BTHA Annual Conference. Travel Medicine is now an established and recognised speciality with our own Faculty. Today's traveller should be much better prepared than their 1948 counterpart. However are they? While provision for Travel Medicine services is provided in the General Practice global sum, we are all aware of practices that provide little or no clinical advice and immunisation to their patients travelling overseas. We would be very keen to hear your views on provision of travel medicine in the U.K. Log onto the members forum at www.btha.org and share your experiences with us. We can hopefully in liaison with the RCN and the Faculty of Travel Medicine start to address some of these inequalities in Travel Health Provision across the U.K.

Finally I would like to introduce our new section 'World Out Breaks' by Dr. Kitty Smith who has joined us on the Executive Committee. Kitty is the senior medical travel advisor at Health Protection Scotland and will be providing us with regular updates in forthcoming editions.

We are keen to involve as many members as possible in the running of the BTHA. If you have an article or picture you want us to consider for publication or wish to join a sub committee please get in touch. All articles intended for Travel Wise should be emailed with the appropriate pictures to nfo@btha.org F.A.O Julie Gallagher, Travelwise Editor

Julie Gallagher

EDITORIAL