



HADRIAN'S WALL: JOURNEYS, FRONTIERS, HUMANITY

26th-29th April 2022



The objective:

In a time when borders, divisions and access to, and the very nature of, education seem more relevant than at any time in our recent past, now seemed like a good time to walk along Hadrian's Wall. Built over 1900 years ago, by Romans occupying Britain, the parallels with our own times are distressingly obvious. Humankind is still mired in working hard to build divisions amongst ourselves, as a species, rather than working to create, communicate and cooperate. This is not about politics, it's about people. And so a walk along Hadrian's Wall seemed very fitting.

This once huge boundary marker that was erected.....well, we're not 100% sure why. Was it to mark the end of the Roman Empire? Was it simply to control the flow of traffic? Was it to keep troops busy so they didn't get bored and elect a new emperor? Was it a place for Jon Snow and the rest of the Night's Watch to fritter away their lives waiting for an enemy that never came..?! Apart from the latter choice, the rest are all possible. But, like much of history, we don't actually know. What we do know is that EdYouFest is where people meet, exchange ideas, communicate and share. And walking along a wall, built by other people, in a place filled with other people, to keep out other people, where their ancestors are all now one people, is a good part of that EdYouFest feeling.



Thom Jones:

Thom Jones has walked the wall a number of times, with his father, with friends and alone. He has also worked with groups and schools taking visitors over its history. And remains fascinated by it: “It’s mad. Mad that it exists, mad that people actually built it, mad that it didn’t work, mad that it’s still there. It’s majestic, beautiful and shocking to find it in such a remote, bucolic nothingness. It’s hard not to stand on it and look at a view that would have been, not dissimilar nearly two thousand years ago and not ask what we’ve earned since. I love it up there”.

So, Thom will set off on April the 26th and finish on the 29th. He’ll walk and sleep along the way. Carrying everything he needs in the oldest rucksack he can find. He will broadcast how he gets on and what’s happening along the route. He will also be talking directly to some groups of students in Italy.

If anybody would like to sponsor him on this endeavour, he is doing it in support of IATEFL projects, helping to fund access to all manner of resources and people within the world of education. As you probably know already, IATEFL projects is an excellent way for our community to help provide funding for ideas and people who need them worldwide:



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