



## **Caravan of Converts for Lady Evelyn Cobbold A graveside tribute to a pioneer of her time and ours**

Thank you for your very kind contact in response to our call for 'Expressions of Interest' in our programme '**Caravan of Converts for Lady Evelyn**' which we have just launched. This information comes to you as a means of informing you of the package already arranged for the proposed weekend of the **10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022**.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Please read the full outline for this event carefully. This is a challenge, but one that is deserving of our grit and determination in honor of this Lady and which we hope you feel up to. Only serious contenders please!**

On behalf of myself, **Batool Al-Toma** representing the **Convert Muslim Foundation**, and **Yvonne Ridley**, representing herself, who are both leading this pilgrimage, we present the following:

- ❖ **Friday Meeting: Hostel in The Scottish Borders on Friday afternoon /evening, 10<sup>th</sup> June**
- ❖ **Arrival and welcome.**
- ❖ **Dinner served at 7pm** – getting to know your fellow Caravan-ers and allocation of **Hostel accommodation**.
- ❖ **Saturday** – exploring the **history of the Lady Evelyn**, the salient aspects of her life particularly her **Journey of a Lifetime – the Hajj** and the book, written by her, of her experiences on Hajj
- ❖ **Walk in local Scottish Borders** including meals, Prayers and food preparation for Sunday
- ❖ **SUNDAY** – **Fajr Prayer and departure at a time agreed** – journeying to graveside
- ❖ **Those travelling or joining the convoy** will organise themselves to do so at set venues along the motorway – **from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen and Inverness**
- ❖ **TENTATIVE PLAN: Journey to the graveside on Sunday morning around 6am** by minibuses with an expectation to reach Edinburgh by 8am and the nearest car parking facility to the start of the trek to the gravesite by approx. 12 noon
- ❖ **\*\*\*Meeting places**, by arrangement, to meet **Joiners to the Caravan – See Pg. 3**
- ❖ **Journeying forward** hoping to arrive at the Carparks **by approx. 12 noon (11am if possible)**
- ❖ **Journey** to the gravesite – trekking over rough terrain mainly flat but with a gradual incline of 500ft over the final couple of klm's – **reaching the grave site by 3pm**
- ❖ **Spend time on prayer and reading Qur'an and leave on foot by 4pm, back to coaches and commence return journey**
- ❖ **Permission** has been secured from the estate to cross the land to the grave site with the stipulation that we will ensure to tread carefully and not cause any harm or hinderance – **fully respecting requests around photographs and filming**
- ❖ **Access to two 17-seater minibuses**. This is a group experience, sturdy male and female converts to Islam (**no children allowed**) from the UK, of about 25/30 people
- ❖ **This will be a historical event** and, as a convert community, needs to record in as non-intrusive a manner as possible.

- ❖ **We HOPE to be accompanied by a film crew who will** record the entire journey from our arrival at the hostel on the Friday to our return there on Sunday night departure from our hostel - TBC
- ❖ **MONDAY** Departure on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June after brunch

This is the overall plan of this weekend event. We are excited about the event and delighted to be paying tribute and our respects to the **Lady Evelyn** in a way that we hope is befitting to her dedication to Islam to the very end of her life when she made her wishes known that a Muslim cleric attend and officiate at her funeral in the highlands of Wester Ross. Please read on for more information about the event and what to bring should you decide to join us.

## **TAKING PART in CARAVAN OF CONVERTS FOR LADY EVELYN**

### **ACCOMMODATION**

1. Generally, hostel type similar to YHA hostels across the UK - Communal hostel/ranch-style accommodation, single bunk beds supported by toilets and shower block - sleeps 20
  2. Other similar options
  3. Communal kitchen facilities and seating areas inside and out
- Bedding and pillows provided** but guests asked to supply their **own towels and toiletries**. If you have a preference for a particular pillow that assists your personal sleeping habits please bring along.

### **BOOKING and PAYMENT**

- ❖ **Applications**, by phone or by email, will be handled on a **'first come first served basis.'** A waiting list that will allow for next in line to any cancellations to be contacted immediately.
- ❖ A **non-Refundable payment of £50** will secure your place on the trip
- ❖ **Total cost of the trip**, £250, must be received to the Bank Account of **'the CONVERT MUSLIM FOUNDATION'** by **Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022**
- ❖ **Cancellations** up to and including **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June** will be refunded payment made over and above the non-refundable deposit of £50. No refunds will be made after this deadline.
- ❖ **Arrival** - Your journey to the accommodation in the Scottish Borders, arriving on Friday 10<sup>th</sup>, June is entirely your responsibility.
- ❖ The **nearest railway station** is Berwick upon Tweed, or if coming from Edinburgh/Glasgow the nearest station is Tweedbank. The closest airports are Newcastle and Edinburgh.
- ❖ **Post code** for accommodation is **TD9 9SZ - Wolfelee House**

### **WHAT TO TAKE WITH YOU?**

#### **CLOTHING**

Ordinary **everyday comfortable** for countryside living, walks, Prayer etc. Light layers would be advisable as the weather in Scotland can fluctuate.

- ❖ Walking boots, well-worn in, for trek to graveside which will be over rough terrain
- ❖ Walking sticks or trekking poles to assist with stability during walk to graveside
- ❖ Neck travel pillow for journey to Wester Ross on Sunday and anything that you feel will add comfort to your journey
- ❖ Rucksack or small backpack for necessities for journey on Sunday
- ❖ Wet wipes for travelling, particularly on Sunday and toilet stops, as well as general means of refreshing
- ❖ SMIDGE – Midge and Insect repellent – to deal with insects that come out in the evenings
- ❖ Medication you normally take on a daily basis and pain killers of your choice for any emergency including blister treatment should you have any unfortunate experience while walking

- ❖ Your most comfortable pillow for sleeping should you have trouble in that respect
- ❖ Prayer mat, tasbeeh, copy of Surah Ya Sin, any Du'a you would prefer to recite at a graveside

Anything else you feel is required by you to make your adventure a successful one.  
Remember however, that anything you take with you on Sunday is your burden to carry!

### **\*\*\*JOINING THE CARAVAN while travelling to the Gravesite on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

We expect that there will be **Converts to Islam from the various cities in Scotland** who will express an interest in joining in this excursion therefore we are offering this opportunity to them since they already live closer to the site than those of us travelling from England.

**The cost of joining** on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June is a non-returnable administration fee of £15 per person

**Each joiner will have responsibility** for their own transport, food and accommodation (if they are from south of the Scottish Border and in the realisation that this adventure cannot be accomplished in one day) should they need it.

**Joining the Caravan** at agreed service stops along the way will be arranged nearer to the event OR

**Joiners have a preference** to travel to and meet in the Carpark that is nearest to the point of disembarking from vehicles and trekking the rest of the journey to the gravesite. Location to be provided.

Please do contact us should you need any clarification regarding any of the information contained in this document. We look forward to seeing you and to having you on board for this adventure.

Warmest wishes – Wassalam