



20x20 Vision for walking in 2040 from Richard Smith - Transcript

My name is Richard Smith and I am based in London UK. I've got a number of projects going at the moment. I've just finished a book called the "Very Byzantine Journey" which is a travelogue running from Jerusalem to Istanbul to Rome to eastern Italy, chasing the Mandylion Image. I am also just planning to go to Nepal and Bhutan to look at hospitals and hanging monasteries. and then on to Palestine, all in the spring of next year. In addition, also working hard on setting up a retreat in Scotland for cancer patients who are living with their cancer and who are in remission and looking to find ways to have their cup half full. Looking to teach walking combined with repetitive chant, long-distance walking at that.

My Vision of the world of walking in 2040!

Moving forward to 2040 by which time I hope I still will be walking. I will not be in the first flush of youth then, I'm not in it now. I personally think there is going to be a lot more interest in pilgrimage, long-distance walking and chant, dare I say it. I think there is a huge increase in organisations such as the British Pilgrimage Trust, in the long-distance walks of Britain and long-distance walks overseas. There is also a great interest in meditative practices and these, I believe will all come together more and more and people will find increasing satisfaction from this as a pastime.

So that's my little view to the future and I sincerely hope it works that way.