

Globe

**Meet Mike Dodd -
first winner of the
William Wood Award**



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"I can't wait to pack up my rucksack and head off"

Many of you will know that Bill Wood was a long-time member of Globetrotters. He loved travelling - particularly exploring little-known areas - and when he died he left us an annual legacy of £1,000 for five years to help a young person realise a travel dream.

The Committee is very pleased to announce the first winner.

Mike Dodd, aged 22, is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Warwick, and will use the award to travel in SE Asia - coincidentally an area much loved by Bill Wood.

As part of his degree Mike has been involved in developing a portable vehicle bridge for use in Cambodia, and his last university group project was the production of a metal detector for land mine clearance specifically for use by civilian humanitarian deminers rather than the military.

Apparently the design requirements are very different. For example the operators of the equipment would be crouching rather than standing and would be working continually during the entire day, not occasionally at night or under fire. There is a testing facility in Cambodia for the work done in Warwick, and Mike will visit those involved in the manufacture of the mine clearance equipment who are also trying to make a full-sized portable bridge. Mike is keen to see how successfully it works and if any improvements to the design can be made.

Mike says: "I feel immensely privileged to be the first person awarded this travel grant and will ensure that I make the most of this opportunity. It has given me the chance to go to an area of the world that I have learned a tremendous amount about over the past few years and I can't wait to pack up my rucksack and head off. There are so many places in the region that I would love to explore and the route I have decided to take starts me off in Bangkok where I can arrange visas and other essentials before heading up into Northern Thailand. I'll then travel across through Laos exploring the central region of the country before crossing into Vietnam via the Kaew Pass. I intend to travel down through Vietnam before eventually working my way into Cambodia. This is where I plan to really take my time spending many weeks absorbing myself in the

country and visiting the amazing temple complexes including Ankor. I will then travel back across into Thailand and work my way down into Malaysia and finally leave the region through Kuala Lumpur. I'm planning to leave in early September which will give me plenty of time to plan and research the area. With my finals looming next month planning this trip will be a very enjoyable chance."

Mike needs to be back in England by Christmas ready to start work in January. He says he loves the freedom of independent travel: if he likes somewhere he will stay a while, if not he'll move on. He will use guide books for his planning and proposes to travel around by bus or train. He has already spent some time travelling in Kenya and described his time there, near a territory where there was intense inter-tribal fighting, as 'an experience' and character building!

Eventually Mike plans to work in a third world country.

Mike will be writing about his travels for *Globe* - and I, for one, can't wait. We all wish him well.

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Female travelling companions wanted

Rose Ratterav writes:

I have just moved to the West Coast so I won't be visiting England until around September. I'd love to stay in London but want to visit the rest of the British Isles. I would like a few day trips but I would also like to spend a few days in the Lake District and the north country. My real goal is to meet another female who wants to travel. I have just retired from teaching (early retirement as I'm only 50 years old) and want to spend more time travelling with someone. I've been around the world over the course of 10 years, alone, and now would like to travel with someone with similar interests. If you are or know of another female who's interested in travelling, please give her my info and ask her to contact me. Just asking as one traveller to another.
e-mail: RatteravR@aol.com

On line?

Visit the special Members' Area on our website at <http://www.alobetrotters.co.uk/members/> You will need a password - so have your *Globe* handy!



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Globetrotters Club
for independent
travellers ...**

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Globe newsletter is published six times a year at the beginning of January, March, May, July, September and November. Copy date is the beginning of the alternate months. Articles from members should be typed whenever possible, preferably supplied on disk, and sent with any photographs or illustrations to the Editor via the Club. Manuscripts are non-returnable unless accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope. Articles submitted will not necessarily be published, and those that are published may be edited. Precedence is given to news over narrative, and opinions expressed in *Globe* are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those held by the Editor or the Globetrotters Club. Whilst every effort will be taken, no responsibility can be accepted for any inaccuracy in content or advertising. Manuscripts and illustrations are accepted on the understanding that no liability shall be incurred for safe custody or return, although all due care shall be taken.

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