



NEWS RELEASE

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Jurassic Challenge Walkers Raise Mammoth Amount!

Well over £7,000 raised by Jurassic Challenge and Junior Jurassic Walks

Any stroll on the Isle of Purbeck or along the world-famous Jurassic Coast is sure to offer stunning views across beautiful rolling countryside or rugged cliff-top paths, but few attempt to absorb so many of those views in one day as our Jurassic Challenge walkers. Frustratingly for those setting off from Corfe Castle at 6am to tackle the 32-mile Jurassic Challenge route, the damp and misty conditions meant visibility was significantly restricted. But the Jurassic walkers are a hardy bunch who, undeterred by the less than ideal weather, covered the 12 miles to Durlston Country Park in good time. Even better, the enthusiastic support team were already in place to provide everyone with a much appreciated cooked breakfast, hot drinks and water bottle refills.

Replenished and reinvigorated, the early starters were joined at Durston by those taking on the slightly less demanding 20-mile route, and by 10am all were heading west along the dramatic Jurassic Coast toward the next checkpoint at Worth Matravers. By now, the last of the drizzle had stopped, the mist had lifted and there were even a few blue patches appearing in the sky. However, the ground under foot was still treacherous in places, and walking boots grew heavy with the accumulations of mud that had to be scraped off at regular intervals!

At Kimmeridge Bay, cheers of support and further refreshments awaited, together with those joining in for the last 10 miles of the route. Of course, the early starters had by now covered 22 miles, and a few decided that was far enough for them, but the vast majority continued onward – boosted by the short stop, the encouragement of the support team and those with fresh legs. From Kimmeridge, the route continued through the deserted village of Tyneham, before turning inland across the Purbeck Hills and on to the finishing line back at Corfe Castle, by now bathed in early evening sunshine.

All were tired, but all were also agreed that the spectacular scenery of the route, and the knowledge that they were raising funds for a great cause, had seen them through. Medals and certificates in hand, each headed off with a smile on their faces - for a long soak in a bath, and a well-earned sleep!

Two weeks later, many of the support team were back at Durlston for the Junior Jurassic Walks, comprising a 5-mile route for the older children, and a 1-mile circuit of the Country Park for the little ones. Fortunately, the weather was far kinder than it had been a year earlier, when torrential rain and high winds had buffeted the participants, and forced the picnic to be taken under the cover of the Visitor Centre. Not so this year, as a feast of home-cooked favourites was enjoyed in the open air. The day finished with each of the children receiving their certificate and medal, and with everyone promising to gather again for the now traditional post-walk BBQ at the home of organiser, Diana McNally and her husband Jess.

The BBQ is a chance for those who participated in the Jurassic Walks to meet up again, to swop stories and to compare notes on how large their blisters had been or how long they'd taken to heal. But it's also the time at which Diana reveals the amount raised by the event, this year a hugely impressive total of £7,275 which will make a significant contribution to our £150,000 Children's Neurosciences Centre Appeal.

Our grateful thanks go Diana and to all who helped to organise, support or participate in the Jurassic Walks, and we hope to see you all again next year.