



## **1948-2008 - CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PERSONAL ENDEAVOUR**

**January 2008**

Welcome to the first DW newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about developments in the race. If you know of anyone who you think might like to receive this or future editions of the newsletter, please forward it and get them to drop us an email so we can add them to the distribution list.

### **Happy New Year and Happy 60th Birthday DW**

2008 is going to be a great year, not least because Devizes Westminster is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Sixty years since that first gauntlet to travel to London by canoe was first thrown down. We're hoping the 2008 event will be as successful as ever. We've got a number of exciting plans in the pipeline and we'll send news about them in the coming weeks and months.

If you're paddling, hopefully the training is in full swing, injury free and going smoothly. If you're still unsure of a few details you can get copies of *The Devizes Westminster Canoe Race* by Brian Greenaway's - the definitive guide to the race. It may be small but it covers everything you need to know. It's available from the [Devizes Westminster Website](#), which is packed with useful information about the event.

### **Entry Forms now Online**

While we're proud to celebrate 60 years of DW history, we are also pleased to announce a small step into the future with the introduction of online entries. The form is simple to use and paddlers may either pay online through Paypal or send a cheque in the traditional way. We hope this innovation will make life just that little bit easier for paddlers and organisers alike. One thing to note - because the form will be filled in by only one person on behalf of any crew, we will require all paddlers to sign up to the standard Limitation of Liability when checking in at Devizes. This is particularly important for Junior Crews who will need to ensure that a suitable adult (parent or guardian) is on hand at the time of check-in. You'll find the form at [www.dwrace.org.uk](http://www.dwrace.org.uk)

### **Lighting on the Tideway for 4 day Racers**

We'd like to remind entrants to the 4 day events that the early tide time on the Monday will mean that all boats will need to carry appropriate lights. These must be produced for inspection at Devizes, though they need not be carried till the Monday. For full details of lighting rules, see the appropriate class rules on the website.

### **Easter Weekend**

If you're paddling, you'll know tide times at Teddington are very early this year. If you and your support crew are staying down in Devizes the previous night you can get information about

available accommodation from the [Devizes Town Council Tourism Website](#). Book early and take one more thing off the To Do list.

## **Volunteers**

In short we need them! From marshalling to manning checkpoints, checking crews, kit, assisting with safety. Down at Westminster there are tens of jobs needed over the entire Easter Weekend. If you have any time from a few hours to the whole weekend, please consider volunteering to help out. If Easter isn't a great time to give time, volunteering isn't just at race time. Throughout the year the race is planned and organized with a committee who piece together the broad range of support and skills required to make Devizes Westminster happen, as safely and smoothly as possible. And you don't have to be a paddler. We need about 300 volunteers to make DW work, and we need a constant supply of new recruits to learn the skills required and replace some of the old hands who are looking to retrieve their Easter. If you can help, in any capacity, please email [Yvonne Riley](#).

## **Splash for Cash - Fundraising with every stroke**

To celebrate the 60th Anniversary, we'd like a big push on raising funds - it's so much easier these days with online fundraising. We're proud to support the [Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal](#). As part of St Thomas' Hospital, DW has benefitted from the generous use of the river side location for years, and we'd like to give something back if possible. We've also teamed up with [Marie Curie Cancer Care](#). They, like us, are celebrating their 60th anniversary. Both these charities have Just Giving accounts and DW should be added as an event shortly. Of course you can choose your own charity - we'll ask them to add DW as an event to their Just Giving account if you drop us an [email](#). You don't have to fundraise but if can, please consider these charities.

## **Your DW**

Finally, there are many sides to DW and whatever your take on the event, or your experience - past or present - we'd like to hear from you if you've got an interesting story, a memorable anecdote, or perhaps a tip for fellow paddlers let us know. If you've got photos, or links to a gallery, send us an [email](#).

You have been sent this email as someone who has either competed in DW or has at some point expressed an interest in the event. If for any reason you no longer wish to receive information about the event, please send us an [email](#).