



1948-2009 - CELEBRATING 61 YEARS OF PERSONAL ENDEAVOUR

February 2009

Welcome to the first Devizes Westminster newsletter of 2009. We would like to bring you up to date with this year's race. If you're paddling, there's news. If you're curious and want to get involved, why not volunteer to help. And if you took part recently, just remember the pleasure and the pain. If you know of anyone who might be interested in receiving this newsletter, please forward it and ask them to drop us an email so that we can add them to our distribution list.

"Windows at Teddington"

For the last few years we have applied a time limit at Teddington for the Senior Doubles race which allows crews only to paddle through Teddington and down the Tideway during a four hour window commencing 30 minutes before High Water and ending 3 hours 30 minutes after High Water. Crews arriving prior **to** the start of the window are held at Teddington and given no time allowance. Crews arriving after the closure of the window are held till the next tide and given no time allowance. This arrangement will remain in force for the first tide on Easter Sunday but the second tide window will be shortened to 2 hours. This second window will run from 30 minutes prior to High Water to 1 hour 30 minutes after High Water. This purpose of this alteration is to avoid having crews on the Tideway excessively late in the evening.

Free Accommodation in Devizes

As in previous years, paddlers taking part in the Four Day events may spend the Thursday night prior to the race either in the Devizes Corn Exchange or in the Scout Headquarters. If you're thinking of using this option, please see the [location map on the website](#). A brief reminder that these buildings shut their doors at 10 pm so it is crucial that anyone intending to spend the night there should be in the building before that time.

Paddlers taking part in the Senior Doubles Event may spend the Friday night in the Scout Headquarters but the Corn Exchange is not available that night.

Appeal for Volunteers

DW is run entirely by volunteers and we are always looking for people to help with the running of the race. In particular, this year we would welcome help with the following:

- someone able to put in place the various road warning notices that we post near road crossings on the course and retrieve them afterwards.
- marshals to assist at Westminster for the race finish.
- additional help to supplement our "Steps Crew" – the vital team who stand in the water at the finish and help all the paddlers out of their boats and up the stairs.

If you are available to help with these tasks or could offer help generally, please contact the Course Secretary, Yvonne Riley, either by phone on 01227 276930 or by email on yvonne.riley2@btinternet.com.

Aldermaston Checkpoint Crew Required

If you're feeling really bold – and we'd like it if some of you were, we need a crew of (minimum) four persons to take boat times at the Aldermaston Checkpoint. Cover would need to start about 0700 hours on the Saturday morning and continue until approximately midnight (Saturday), with someone being available until the last boat goes through.' If you can help, or think you might be able to, drop Cherry Bapty an email on cherrybapty@hotmail.com.

Raising Funds for a Charity – A Fundraising Suggestion

DW is tough enough without making it a charity event. However, if you're raising funds for charity while you paddle, please drop us an [email](#) with details of your fundraising activities. Last year's entrants raised over £200,000.

If you are looking to raise some funds while you paddle, and haven't yet chosen a charity we'd like to suggest Evelina Children's Hospital as a possible charity. Evelina is based at Guys & St Thomas's, which DW use as our Finish Camp. It's our way of giving something back to people who help us. [Full details about fundraising online with Just Giving here.](#)



Paddlers' stories

We would like to post more personal accounts of the race on the DW website so that newcomers can develop a better idea of what it is like to train for and compete in this great event. If you have written a description of your DW experience and are happy for it to be posted, please drop us an [email](#).

Prize giving at Pewsey

We are pleased to announce that the 2009 prize-giving will be held in the Bouverie Hall on North Street in Pewsey at 2 pm on Saturday 23rd May. Pewsey occupies a special place in the history of the event because it was in the Greyhound pub that the seeds of the race were sown.

DW2009 Poster Download

If you want to raise awareness of DW, you can download the [DW2009 poster](#), print it out and post in on your club, workplace, sports centre or kitchen notice board as a reminder of the exciting Easter that we're going to get.

Please forward this to friends and organizations that you think might be interested in hearing about the Devizes Westminster International Canoe Race. And as ever, keep an eye on www.dwrace.org.uk for the latest news about next year's event.

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](#).