



1948-2009 - CELEBRATING 61 YEARS OF PERSONAL ENDEAVOUR

March 2009

Just a couple of weeks until Devizes Westminster 2009. At this stage conditions are looking good – certainly more favourable than 2008. Waterside D on Sunday 29th, and then the countdown and final preparations commence.

Support Crews – a request and some advice

If you're racing this year, a reminder to your support teams that we'd like you to pass on. Support teams are there to help crews move down the course. While crews move down the course on the river, hundreds of vehicles are moving down the roads alongside. Please be considerate to residents, communities and businesses you meet up with as you support your crews. Your behaviour has an impact on the race. And in some circumstance your actions could penalise your crews.

More Volunteers Please

DW is run entirely by volunteers and we are always looking for people to help with the running of the race. We're specifically looking for a couple of people to help out with setting up and supporting checkpoint crews. It's an important job – requiring a bit of time on the first three days of the race. If you're up for a challenge, we'd appreciate your help. Contact [Cherry Bapty](#) or call on 07789 434251. More generally, we can use assistance at any location along the course, on any day of the event. If you are available to help please contact the Course Secretary, Yvonne Riley, either by phone on 01227 276930 or by email on yvonne.riley2@btinternet.com.

Paddlers' stories

Thanks for the Paddlers' Stories that have been sent in. You can read them on the [DW website](#).

Pictures please

We're still on the look-out for that quintessential DW picture. The image that sums up DW – the pain, the hope, the pleasure, the satisfaction, the drudgery of the food, and an understanding of why so many people come back for more. Share your snaps on [Flickr](#) in the Devizes Westminster International Canoe Marathon group, or on **Facebook**, or **YouTube** ([Christine and Kevin's film](#)). Send us the link, and we'll tell everyone else.

Splashing for Cash

We know of 12 crews that are raising funds as they paddle, with over £9,000 pledged already. If you're raising funds for charity while you paddle, please drop us an [email](#) with details of your fundraising activities. If you're still looking for 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](#).



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.

Race Coverage

A couple of articles in the [Telegraph](#) and the [Times](#) if you didn't see them in the papers.

Prize giving at Pewsey

After Easter, you get a chance to celebrate with the 2009 prize-giving event. This year it's going to be held at 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.

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](#).