



## 1948-2010 - CELEBRATING 62 YEARS OF PERSONAL ENDEAVOUR

February 2010

Just under a couple of months to go until Easter, and whether you're taking part, have taken part, or volunteer, you'll know that Easter equals DW – the Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Marathon. This year's race is 2-5 April 2010. But you knew that already, of course you did.

### Volunteers Please

Anyone who has been involved in DW whether as a competitor, support on the banks, or support from home, will know it's a phenomenal event. It's rightly a memorable occasion and increasingly popular. Everyone who works to make the race happen is a volunteer – marshals, umpires, safety crews, steps crews down in Westminster, the cooks and kitchen staff that provide much needed warmth and sustenance at the finish, the camp site crews for the four-day junior race. The list goes on.

With the popularity of the race, **we need new volunteers**. If you can give some time over the Easter Weekend, from a couple of hours to the entire weekend, we'd love to hear from you. If you've got a relevant skill, that's great. Most important is being able and willing. Please email [yvonne.riley2@btinternet.com](mailto:yvonne.riley2@btinternet.com) as soon as you can. Please do think about it if you can – we do really need more people on the job. Thanks.

### Waterside Weekend

Waterside A takes place on Sunday 7 February, the classic build up to DW, taking in much of the Kennet & Avon course over the four race series. Good luck to those taking part, and enjoy getting intimate with the K&A. Full details of competitors, times and race results at <http://www.watersides.fsnet.co.uk/>

### Pictures, Stories, Twitters and your Paddler's Tales

There's a lot to say about DW and a lot being said. When you can't talk to your partner or other crews training, you can share your pictures and stories online. DW Group on [Flickr](#) has some great images of previous races, as does [Paddlepics](#). If you prefer a moving image type Devizes Westminster in [YouTube](#) and you'll find all sorts of creative output, as well as a few tips on technique if you look carefully. On Twitter put [#dwapril2010](#) at the start of your tweets and we can all keep in touch on the move. And of course they'll be chat on [Facebook](#) as well. If you're really keen, send us your story, and we'll post some of them on [Paddler's Tales](#). Talk amongst yourselves, or keep on top of developments at [www.dwrace.org.uk](http://www.dwrace.org.uk). Send us your links, and we'll share them around.

### Happy 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday to the Kennet & Avon Canal

It's 28<sup>th</sup> December 1810 and the Kennet & Avon Canal is opened to link the Kennet and Avon navigations. This year – 2010 – the [Kennet & Avon Canal celebrates its bicentenary](#). So as you're paddling along the waterway, waiting at locks and portage points, reflect on what's happened in the last [200 years](#). There's [a year of celebrations](#) to get involved with. But what of the history of the K&A itself? If you've got any stories to send through, drop us a line. Without the K&A, there'd be no DW. Let's celebrate the canal, for all the trouble and pain it can cause over Easter.



**Paddling for a charity?**

DW is tough enough and if you're taking part that should be your sole focus. However, several crews do decide to raise money as well. If you're fundraising, could you drop us a note and let us know. We'd like to know who you are, what your charity is and your online charity fundraising page (if you have one).

(PS. If you're looking for a charity to support, we're very keen on [Evelina Children's Hospital](#). A good cause, and part of Guy's and St Thomas' who very kindly let us put our finish camp on their land down at Westminster over Easter Weekend.)

**One More thing – Volunteers Please**

Did I mention that DW is run entirely by volunteers. With the growth in entry numbers in recent years, we need more volunteers than ever. If you, friends and family thought about giving some time last year, this is your moment. Please contact the Course Secretary, Yvonne Riley by email on [yvonne.riley2@btinternet.com](mailto:yvonne.riley2@btinternet.com).

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](http://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](#).