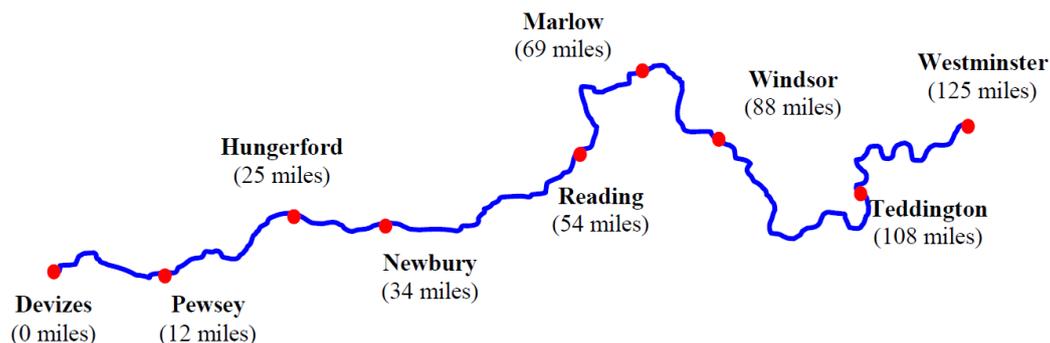


Canoe Foundation Chosen as DW2012 Official Charity

We are delighted to announce that the Canoe Foundation has been selected as the 'Official Charity Partner' for the 2012 Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race.

Devizes to Westminster:

Held annually over the Easter Weekend since 1948, Devizes to Westminster (DW) is considered by many to be one of the ultimate tests of endurance. Starting on the Kennet and Avon Canal at Devizes in Wiltshire, it pushes competitors to their physical and mental limits, covering 125 miles (201 km) and including a grueling 77 portages before finishing opposite the Houses of Parliament on the tidal section of the River Thames just downstream of Westminster Bridge.



Open to all, DW will test even the very best kayakers to their limits, living up to its reputation as one of the most physically demanding events around. However, with some careful planning and preparation, it could be one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of your life.

Interest in the event goes far beyond the UK, bringing competitors from across the world to what will be an expected start list of over 500 competitors taking part across the five different classes:

- Senior Doubles – crews of two adults who race non-stop from start to finish
- Senior Singles – adult single paddlers who compete over four days
- Junior Doubles – crews of two juniors who compete over four days
- Veteran / Junior – crews of one adult (over 35) and one junior who compete over four days
- Endeavour – a non-competitive doubles class held over four days

The 2012 Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Marathon will be held over the Easter Weekend, 6th and 9th April 2012, for more information the visit www.dwrace.org.uk or follow the official Devizes to Westminster Twitter account @DWcanoerace (www.twitter.com/DWcanoerace)

Raising Money:

Many crews raise money for charity by participating in DW; something which is encourage with the prestigious trophy - the Pfeiffer Cup, awarded annually to the crew who raise the most money for charity. Alongside the Evelina Children's Hospital, part of St Thomas's Hospital where the DW finish marquees are located, the Devizes to Westminster Organising Committee select a different charity each year.

For 2012 the Devizes to Westminster Organising Committee are delighted to announce the Canoe Foundation as our 'Official Charity Partner'.

Canoe Foundation:

The principle functions of the Canoe Foundation are to raise money; inform and educate; and allocate funds, across five key areas; Young people; Places; Heritage; International; and Equity; and in line with the Charity's mission statement: **'positively changing lives through canoeing'**.

The last eight years have seen the Canoe Foundation awarded over £138,000 of grants to 146 projects up to and including October 2011. The majority the 24,000 individuals who have benefitted from these awards are young people and those with disability (under the key area of equality which also includes minority groups) awarded from monies through the Charity's Small Grants Panel.

Support:

The Charity relies on donations to enable us to continue our positive work, none of which would have been possible without the continued support the Charity receives from the paddling community, and wider afield.

On our website (www.canoefoundation.org.uk) you can find out all about the Charity, including case studies, grant application processes, and how you can further support us. You will also find sections about fundraising and donating, which might be of specific use for your DW fundraising. Here you can download copies of our sponsorship and Gift Aid form as well as details for our JustGiving page (www.justgiving.com/canoefoundation) where you can log-in and set-up your own sponsorship page(s) for DW or any other event which you are putting on or taking part in.

Another way by which you can support the Canoe Foundation is through the use of social media. Not only does this improve the way in which we communicate with you, our supporters, but it also enables us to promote fundraising events and the positive work that the Canoe Foundation has, and continues to undertake. You can keep up-to-date with all the latest news by visiting and clicking 'like' on the Charity's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/canoefoundation) or via Twitter (@CanoeFoundation) which can be accessed at www.twitter.com/canoefoundation so log-on, spread the news, and help us **'positively changing lives through canoeing'**.

The 'Canoe Foundation' is registered with Companies House in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee (Registered Company Number: 06194565). Registered Office: 18 Market Place, Bingham, Nottinghamshire, NG13 8AP. Registered Charity Number: 1121456. 'The Canoeing Foundation' was incorporated on 30th March 2007, with the name changed by special resolution to the 'Canoe Foundation' on 24th July 2008.