



# Orwell Walk and Cycle brings in £40,000 for local good causes

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This year's Orwell Walk and Cycle has been hailed a success after sunny weather attracted a 500-strong crowd who between them raised in excess of £40,000 for local charities.

Organised by the Ipswich East Rotary Club, it was the 39th Orwell Walk event to be held in the county.

Participants for the walk could take part in either the 12-mile Levington Loop, 19-mile Fishponds Folly or 25-mile Orwell 25. Cyclists could choose between five, 15 and 27-mile routes.

Among the crowds was 82-year-old Colin Redmonds, who is thought to be the oldest participant to ever complete the 25-mile walk.

While the total amount of funds

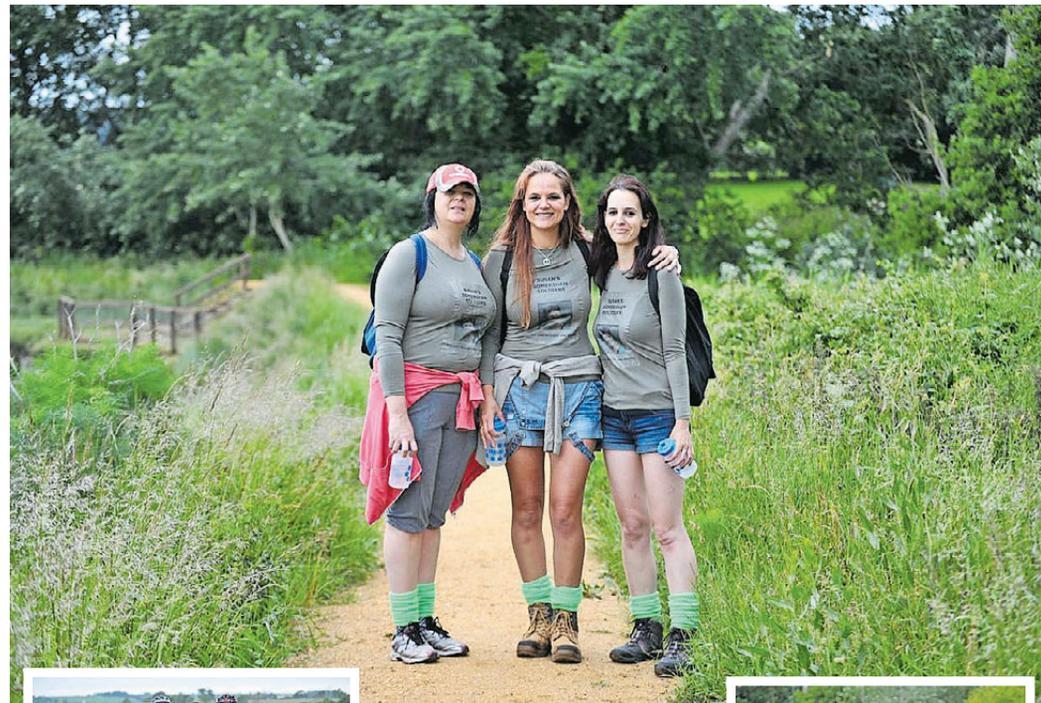
**“It gives the local community a vehicle to raise funds for anything that needs fundraising for.”**

John Button, Ipswich East Rotary vice president

raised is yet to be calculated, it is thought that the total will exceed £40,000, with £7,000 raised through entry fees to go towards the rotary group's two chosen charities, poverty-support charity Families in Need (Find) and Bridge School fund for children with learning disabilities and specialist needs.

Since 1977 the event has raised more than £1.5million for local charities.

Vice-chairman of Ipswich East Rotary, John Button, said: “Most walks and events are for a specific charity. Big organisations have got the organisational power to do fund-



■ Above, walking for their mother Susan Hughes, from left, Rachel Ward, Becky Hughes and Sarah Brill.

Left, Sean Bater, Liz Smyth and Malcolm Ramm raising funds for Cardiac Risk in the Young. Right, walkers enjoying the event.

Pictures: SARAH LUCY BROWN



raising for themselves. We have got a lot of little charities and organisations such as Scouts groups, churches and small charities and the only way they can possibly raise funds is by using events like the Orwell Walk.

“If they need some new goals for a kids football team, the kids can walk and raise funds for that.”

“It gives the local community a

vehicle to raise funds for anything that they need fundraising for.

“It's a really fun day with a great atmosphere.”

It was the final event to be held under current president for the Ipswich East Rotary, Geoff Watson.

Speaking after the event, he said: “I'm delighted with the success of the day and with the support we have



received from the public and Rotary members.

“We had about 75 volunteers helping. Thanks to our sponsors Fred Olson Travel and to everyone who participated.”

All routes began and ended at Gainsborough Sports Centre, in Brazier's Wood Road, Ipswich, with some groups leaving as early as 7am.

## IN BRIEF

### Crews' asbestos alert following blaze in barn

**FRAMLINGHAM:** Firefighters were called to a barn fire in Victoria Mill Road on Saturday afternoon.

The blaze was reported shortly after 1.15pm at a detached single-storey barn thought to have furniture inside.

Fire crews from Stradbroke and Woodbridge were initially called, before additional support from Leiston, Woodbridge and Saxmundham was called due to the presence of asbestos.

When they arrived the barn was completely alight, with half of the roof thought to contain asbestos.

Fire crews removed two cylinders from the building, and had extinguished the fire shortly before 2.30pm.

### Kebab house blaze is put out by fire crews

**BURY ST EDMUNDS:** Fire crews have tackled a blaze in an outbuilding at Bella Pizza & Kebabs in South Parade.

Two appliances from Bury attended the fire at about 2.30am on Saturday and used one hose reel to extinguish it. It was out by 2.44am.

### Detectives make third arrest in stab probe

**CHELMSFORD:** Detectives have made a third arrest in connection with a stabbing at on Tuesday in which a man was injured. One man has already been charged and a teenager is on bail in connection with the incident.

## Top TV archaeologist to lead children in dig

Hidden historic sites in Long Melford are to be opened up over the next two days, with the help of a leading archaeologist.

Dr Carenza Lewis, known for her role as one of the experts on Channel 4's *Time Team*, is running a special archaeology project which is aimed at getting youngsters involved in the science and engaging with local schools.

Today and tomorrow pupils from years nine to 12 from Ormiston Academy in Sudbury, Hedingham School in Castle Hedingham, Thomas Gainsborough School in Great Cornard and Samuel Ward will be digging up the past in the village as part of Access Cambridge Archaeology's Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) programme.



■ Dr Carenza Lewis

A HEFA spokesman said: “Led by Dr Carenza Lewis, well-known from Channel 4's *Time Team* and Michael Wood's *The Great British Story*, the HEFA programme aims to raise the aspirations, enthusiasm and attainment of young people with regard to higher education by making a valuable

contribution to current academic research at the University of Cambridge.”

The programme has been running since 2004 and to date has involved more than 10,000 young people from dozens of schools across the country.

Local residents from Long Melford have opened up their back gardens for “test pits” to be dug by the students over the next two days.

The findings will then be used to further research on medieval settlements and medieval life by academics at the University of Cambridge.

■ Further information about the HEFA programme and Access Cambridge Archaeology can be found at [www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk](http://www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk)

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