CHALLENGE EVENTS

You can get involved from the Great North Run to the London and Paris Marathons, in a whole host of challenge events. Whether it is canoeing, cycling and mountain climbing or swimming the Channel, there are so many things you can do, it would be impossible to list them all here. You can choose to do your own thing or there are lots of challenge event companies that will help you in your quest to raise money for Bury Hospice by doing something a little more unusual. We use third party organisers, to help us with some of the more demanding physical events, to satisfy the more adventurous amongst you! These events require minimum sponsorship to cover the cost of the event itself and to ensure that Bury Hospice receives what is due.

DOING YOUR OWN THING

The Pilgrim’s Way

Graham Bolton of The Graham Bolton Planning Partnership Ltd., decided to do something distinctly different to raise funds for Bury Hospice. Although his challenge was somewhat unusual in this day and age, a few hundred years ago it would have been absolutely commonplace. Graham fulfilled a long-held ambition to walk 113 miles along The Pilgrim’s Way, from Farnham in Hampshire to Canterbury Cathedral, singing all 150 Psalms along the way. A list of the psalms was sent out and people could choose a psalm to be sung by Graham in dedication or memory of a loved one. The public imagination was captured by this challenge and Graham’s story appeared in the press and he was interviewed on BBC Radio by Heather Stott. Graham raised over £4,500 which was split between ourselves and another charity.

“I have found people’s response both humbling and quite emotional, with most people asking for a Psalm in memory of a loved one or lost colleague. In contrast, someone asked for a Psalm “for my lovely Jill” – I don’t know if this is his wife, daughter or whoever, alive or not, but it is rather joyous and I sang that Psalm in Rochester Cathedral. A client who has had a few problems with his local planning authority requested Psalm 59 – “Deliver me from mine enemies O God: defend me from them that rise up against me; ..” - while a QC I know from London chambers chose Psalm 10 for the put upon folk whose lives have been blighted by a Compulsory Purchase Order!

The reception at Canterbury on Sunday, 20th June, was very special. Canon Clare Edwards met and looked after me. The Dean welcomed me at the beginning of the morning Eucharist service in the cathedral. He referred to the walk as a “singing pilgrimage” and explained the trek along the Pilgrim’s Way singing the Psalms, and the two charities involved, which was followed by applause from the congregation which took me aback. After the Communion service, Clare led me above the High Altar to the site of the former Thomas a Becket shrine, which is cordoned off, and I was privileged to be able to sing my last three Psalms there with the worn imprints in the stone floor in front of me where countless pilgrims had knelt; you can see the worn floor in the cathedral picture. It was rather overwhelming.

This all started as a long held ambition for an amble along the Pilgrim’s Way/North Downs Way, but thankfully turned into something far more meaningful and worthwhile, and will help others, when I agreed to sing a Psalm for a young man I know with a young family and a brain tumour.”

Graham Bolton
Challenge 1000

Al Pepper, Managing Director and Staff Sergeant in the TA set himself a huge challenge to travel 1000 kilometres within 12 months by running, cycling, diving and endurance events to cover the distance. Al has taken part in local club races such as the Bupa Manchester 10k Run and the Great North Run, the Coast to Coast Cycle, Dawn to Dusk Motorcycle Endurance Event, High Peak 40 Mile Mountain Marathon and the Wharfedale Half Marathon Fell Race, to name just a few!

“The Challenge has come about from an idea that I had last year whilst competing in running races throughout the year and trying to get sponsorship for individual races. I’m not one to keep asking for people to sponsor me for every event I ran so I thought I’d just do one event that lasted a year!! The number 1000 looked good and a plan was hatched to try and cover 1000Km in a year.’

‘This year I’m dedicating all my fundraising to Bury Hospice’.

Al Pepper
UK EVENTS

Skyline has three ‘Ongoing’ events taking place each weekend of the year at centres across the country, Parachuting, White-water Rafting and Outward Bound. As long as you raise the minimum sponsorship level, it will cost you absolutely nothing to take part in any of them. You can take part individually, or with friends or work colleagues.

PARACHUTING

This is by far the most popular of our challenge events and the great thing is you don’t need any experience to take part. There are 22 airfields across the country and most of our parachutists go to the Black Knights Parachute Centre in Lancaster. All training is given and the minimum sponsorship is extremely attainable.

Static Line Square Parachute Jump

Full training – no experience required
Jump solo from 3,000 feet
Securely attached to a ‘static line’ which is designed to open your parachute for you
First step to becoming a qualified skydiver
Certificate to prove you have completed a 3,000 feet parachute jump!

Tandem Skydive

Jump and training completed in one day
Harnessed to an instructor at all times
Skydive from 10,000 feet like the pros
Freefall down to 5,000ft at 120mph!
You will be taught how to steer the canopy
Landing is controlled by your instructor
Certificate to prove you have completed a 2-mile high tandem skydive!
**Accelerated Freefall Solo Skydive**

- Full day's training
- Skydive solo from 10,000 feet
- 2 instructors in the air with you whilst you are in freefall
- Once your parachute is deployed you will talked down by ground control
- First level of a pro skydiver’s course
- Certificate to prove you have completed a Level 1 Accelerated Freefall course!

**WHITE WATER RAFTING**

- Obviously, this is a team event, which makes it extremely affordable. There are five locations in the UK where you can experience white water rafting.
- No experience required as all training given
- Accompanied by an experienced guide at all times
- Paddle your raft down some of the most exciting white-water courses in Britain
- Learn to run the rapids just like the professionals!
OUTWARD BOUND

There are three Outward Bound centres, in the Lake District, North Wales and the Scottish Highlands that offer these residential corporate team building weekends. You will need a team of eight people to take part in the various mental and physical challenges levelled at you, whilst bonding with your colleagues! Accommodation, food and equipment are all provided.

5K RUN SERIES

For those of you who prefer something a little less arduous, there are a number of 5k Runs throughout the year that you can take part in. The 5k Super Heroes Run for example takes place in Heaton Park, Manchester and your registration fee also gets you a Super Heroes suit to run around in! The emphasis on this event is taking part, not winning, so it doesn’t matter if you run, walk or crawl and with a bit of training it is infinitely achievable. Contact the Fundraising Office for dates and availability.