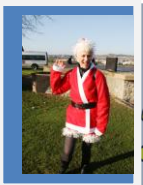




THE ROTARY CLUB OF MEDWAY SANTA FUN RUN



FINAL NEWS



240

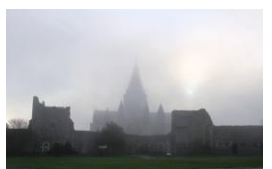
November 22nd 2011

ISSUE TWELVE

-3 days



The morning began optimistically with sun piercing slowly through a ground mist and the eerie 'ghostly' sounds of a deserted castle gardens echoing around the fortress walls and the damp freshness of an early morning dew providing a contrasting backdrop to the 'mayhem' that lay ahead, when the Santas came to 'town'



The weather couldn't have been more perfect for the occasion as mist dissipated into a clear blue sky and glorious sunshine. The final countdown had begun, sound system set up at 8am and the tent erection team drifting in by 9am. Under the direction of Ray, the team set up the Registration tent, whilst



Geoff 'H' established another team to put together the activity tent; to include Rochester Rotarian's Mulled wine – Cross Roads Care and a small activity section, which ultimately was rarely used. By 10.30am all was in place and we just awaited the gradual increase in red suited groups, arriving against the background of 'Christmas jingles' Yes it was still November!!

By midday a frenzy of activity began to develop around the Registration tent as participants signed in and declared their fund raising achievements, whilst others (34) registered for the first time on the day.

17 year old Kieran Mellish, a pupil from Hundred of Hoo School, Thespian with Stage Theatre Society and a member of Training Them Live, came and



performed for 30 minutes a medley of songs, keeping the waiting Santas well entertained many making favourable comparisons with the 'X' Factor. Special guests the Deputy Mayor of Medway Councillor Raymond Maisey and his wife Buffy, together with District Governor Lynn Mitchell and her husband Ray arrived for 1.30 and joined in the warm up routine that was conducted by Sophie Williams, a dance instructor from the Right Step Dance Company.



All set; a safety briefing from David and a few encouraging words from the Deputy Mayor before he blew the whistle and 283 Santas moved on their way; many at the leisurely saunter pace but all smiling and enjoying the reverie of the occasion - Santa dogs, children, prams, wheelchairs and colourful walking sticks; plus the odd athlete determined to be first. 19year old **Dale Kemp**, back for his first leave weekend after 7 weeks basic army training, stormed home; closely followed by **Mark Toms** and Gillingham **MP Rehman Chishti**

The total amount raised will not be known for some time but with one individual worth nearly £1,000 a bumper fund raising return is expected. Thanks to Medway Events, MAGIC, Bob Grabham, Cross Road Care, Kent Police, Sophie Williams, Kieran Mellish, Babs Webber, Lesley Williams, Vokes Taxis, The Crown Public House, Medway Sunlight, Rochester and Minster Rotarians, Featherby, Dane Court, Thomas Aveling and the Medway Rotary Club and many other individuals and groups for making



This a Year to Remember
Here's to 17th November 2012

