

Thank you



Linking Our VillagEs

The LOVE run was a great success despite the appalling weather. Runners and marshals on the 10Km (6.2 miles) route were battered by 60mph winds and rain squalls.

It was touch and go whether the event would take place at all because of the awful weather forecast but the last minute decision to go ahead was a good one. The bad weather brought out the best in everyone.

We nearly re-located the drinks and jelly baby station but the Dunfords were determined and went ahead, ferrying our MP to the most exposed point on the whole route. The wind was so strong that they had to tie their banner to a tractor!

The photo shows Caroline Nokes, MP with Paul North, leader of Test Valley Borough Council who was a runner and gave a brief speech at the Barton Stacey start. They have both been very helpful in leading opposition to the incinerator. Local TVBC member David Drew was a marshal and HCC local member, Andrew Gibson was a tail runner so we could not have asked for better support.

We helped raise awareness about the incinerator with placards and banners on the route, displays at the two village halls and items on Radio Solent and BBC South Today and in the Hampshire Chronicle and the Andover Advertiser. We also raised over £600 for KTVB

Caroline Nokes spoke about the incinerator in Parliament the following Tuesday.

Despite the conditions, 100 runners had a great time on the run. They shared high 5s and hugs on the way and were warmly welcomed with tea and cake, lots of cake, in the village halls at Longparish and Barton Stacey so the other objective of enjoying ourselves and Linking Our VillagEs was achieved as well.

Thank you to everyone who took part: marshals, helpers in the halls, bakers, cheering crowds, politicians, KTVB, reporters, photographers, course signers and runners. You are all heroes.

Jeremy Barber (the mad person who had the idea)



Graeme Johnson and Sonia Whiteman near the top of the killer hill



The Barton Stacey start



Graeme Francis marshals near Upper Mill



Caroline Nokes, MP, with run director Jeremy Barber and tail runner Oli Coleman