

Media information: for immediate release

Runners aim to help village reach £100,000 charity milestone

Runners taking part in one of the country's toughest half marathons will help an historic Derbyshire village reach a £100,000 fund raising milestone.

Over 400 runners are expected to descend on the Peak District village of Eyam on Sunday, May 17, for the 15th Eyam Half Marathon.

Organisers of the much loved 'rat race' have, over the last 15 years, raised over £94,000 for local cancer charities and organizations. It is hoped that this year will see the grand total top the £100,000 mark.

Eyam Half Marathon Committee chairman Steve Brown said: "This would be a truly fantastic achievement for us as a group and for the village.

"It is remarkable how this event has become such a popular and respected half marathon. But the thing that never ceases to amaze me is the generosity and support of the people of Eyam and the surrounding villages.

"Each year so many people give their time to make this event happen and I would be incredibly proud if we could reach £100,000."

Just under half of money raised each year is given to St Luke's Hospice and Weston Park Hospital, Sheffield, and Ashgate Hospice in Chesterfield. The remainder is distributed to a range of local organizations.

With time running out, organizers are urging individual and club runners to get their entries in for this year's Eyam Half Marathon.

Those who do get a place will be rewarded by stunning views over five counties during the gruelling course which involves more than 1,200 feet of ascent.

The event is again backed by Vittel which is supplying bottles of water for the stamina-sapping event, which starts at 10.30am.

The race is a single loop circuit run entirely on the road surface and passes through the hamlets of Bretton and Abney, skirts around Eyam Moor and returns to Eyam via Sir William Hill.

A range of individual and team prizes include £100 for the first male or female to beat the course records set by Adrian Clarke of 1:11:46 in 1999 and Philippa Leach's 14-year-old best of 1:26:59.

You can get a half marathon entry form by ringing 01433 630418 or go to the event website at www.eyamhalfmarathon.org.uk.

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