

## London Marathon 18<sup>th</sup> April 2004

# Marathon Girl

### Dreams Come True

Early December and my acceptance to the best marathon in the world fell through my letterbox and the dream becomes a reality.

The training schedule started on Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup>, supposedly when you are highly motivated to make up for the over indulgence during the festivities.

### Rain, Snow and Hail

From there it's 16 weeks until marathon day. For the next three months my life was spent following the schedule, out into the rain, snow, hail and freezing wind, running around the streets of Milton on my own, in my bright yellow and red hat, trying to avoid the holes in the roads. Adding more miles as the weeks went by, eating a healthy diet, well sort of, until finally the day arrived.

### The Day Dawns

We travelled by bus from Witney leaving at the unearthly hour of 6am, reaching



London in plenty of time to enjoy the atmosphere.

### Every Step of the Way

9:45am came all too soon and the gun went off, not that I moved anywhere for a while. Despite the weather being awful the next few hours flew by, thanks mainly to the crowds cheering us on every step of the way.

Somewhere around 22 miles my legs turned to lead and didn't want to play the game, but I just kept plodding along,

hard that it was and lonely. By this time no-one had the energy to talk to each other.

I was tired and wet and a little disappointed with my finishing time of 5 hours 23 minutes. However I ran all the way; the one thing I had wanted to achieve. Looking at the medal makes it all worth it.

Will I ever do it again? If you had asked me that a week ago "No never!" but now I have had time to reflect I might give it another go one day!!!

**Lesley Blackwell**

## Ride and Stride: An Early Date for your Diary

The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust raised £99,698 in 2003. This annual sponsored event will be held on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September** this year, when walkers and cyclists will be out and about between 10.00am and 6.00pm visiting churches throughout Oxfordshire

to raise money for the repair and refurbishment of local churches. In 2003 OHCT gave £130,000 to 47 churches in Oxfordshire. Our area raised over £1,800, a big thanks to those who contributed last year. Please support us this year, look out for further details.