

Santas on the Run

It was a bright and crisp (and cold) Sunday morning, 13th December, yet the atmosphere in Oxford's Turl Street, with the Radcliffe Camera overlooking us all, was fantastic. 1,100 men, women and children all stood dressed as Father Christmas in very fetching red felt jackets with white trim and matching trousers and hats as well as fluffy beards and black belts in order to run two miles and raise as much money as possible for Helen and Douglas House, a hospice providing much needed care for terminally-ill children in Oxfordshire, and *Have a Heart* the new charity set up by Oxfordshire's Heart FM radio station. Amongst them were the *Christmas Puddins* a team of brothers and sisters from the Wychwoods; Ali Faulkner, Jo Naish, Rob Naish and Chris Naish.

Jo has been running for the last two years and successfully completed the London Marathon in 2008 followed by the Silverstone half-marathon and the Great North Run in 2009. It was Jo's idea for us to run together.

We had to run along Parks Road past Wadham College into South Parks, around the duck pond and then back to

Turl Street, passing the University Museum of Natural History and Pitt Rivers Museum on route. We were greeted with a huge cheer as we rounded the last corner and collected our medals. Volunteers were on hand with hot cups of tea and mince pies or mulled wine if you preferred.



We have managed to raise in excess of £500 between us and we are truly grateful for all the donations that everyone has made. The next challenge for Jo and Rob is the Blenheim Triathlon in the summer!

Alison Faulkner

The Peace in a Forest Before and After

Finding peace in the forest is not a hard thing to do

The scent of the wood of the great ancient tree soothes hikers and kids

As they watch the salmon jump gracefully in the stream freely

They'll hear the trees dancing in the wind

As they protect the forest creatures from harm of water and wind but when we come

With axes and saws

The forest is no more, but...

Kids prefer forest than

A new outlet mall!!!!

Richard Burgis, aged 11 years Wheaton, Illinois

His grandfather, James Burgis, lives in Milton.