

Connect Group press release: 10 June 2014

Connect Group PLC employees conquer the Brecon Beacons at TrekFest 2014

On Saturday 7 June a group of employees from Connect Group PLC completed TrekFest, a challenging 32 mile walk over the Brecon Beacons in South Wales, to raise money for a variety of local and national charities.

To say TrekFest is tough is an understatement – and it certainly tested the fitness and stamina of everyone taking part. Crossing some of the highest peaks in the Brecons, the trekkers completed the 32 mile hike in just 12 hours – through heavy rain and some very thick mud! This was a fantastic achievement for all, but for some it really tested their physical and mental endurance.

Mark Silver, Web Content Manager at Connect Group, has been raising money for the National Literacy Trust. He reflected on his walk:

“It certainly was no cake walk! The climb to the top of Pen y Fan was challenging for even the most experienced trekkers, but the view from the top made it all worthwhile. We were blessed with perfect walking weather, until the heavens opened two miles from the finish line – where there was champagne and, of course, cake!”

There were over 800 people taking part in the walk, with Connect Group providing the second largest number of applicants – 26 members of staff from all areas of the Company took part. So far they have raised over £7500 between them for a total of 9 different charities.

Natasha Sewley, Field Sales Officer at The Consortium, and her team have raised almost £2000 for Hope House Children’s Hospice:

“Taking part in TrekFest was amazing, exhausting and emotional – it was a fantastic opportunity to raise money for a great local charity.”

Each year Connect Group, whose head office is based in Swindon, provides its staff with lots of opportunities to get involved in events like TrekFest, and this weekend’s walk was the second flagship event in the Company’s Community Link-Up programme. This is a staff-led initiative which encourages employees to get involved in fundraising activities, volunteer in their local community and ‘link-up’ with their colleagues. The programme is in its fourth year and has raised over £300,000 for local and national charities.

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About Connect Group PLC:

Connect Group PLC is a leading specialist distributor operating in large and diverse markets. The Group has three separate divisions, connecting suppliers to customers in an efficient, knowledgeable and service oriented way:

Connect News & Media – encompassing: Smiths News, the UK's largest news wholesaling business with an approximate 55% market share, distributing newspapers and magazines on behalf of all the major national publishers as well as a large number of regional publishers. Smiths News serves approximately 30,000 customers across England and Wales, supplying large general retailers as well as smaller independent newsagents; and Dawson Media Direct, an international media direct business supplying newspapers, magazines and inflight entertainment technology and content to over 80 airlines in 50 Countries.

Connect Books – combining a number of recognised brands in print and digital bookselling, including Bertrams, Dawson Books and Wordery. A leading distributor of physical and digital books, the division serves over 8,200 customers in approximately 100 countries, with over 200,000 in stock titles and access to over a further 7 million consumer and 20 million academic titles.

Connect Education & Care - a leading independent supplier of consumables through The Consortium and West Mercia Supplies with an approximate 5% market share. The division serves over 30,000 customers with an extensive range of over 40,000 products across a branded, own brand and value range, including stationery, arts and craft and cleaning.

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