

SHELTERBOAT2 ON THE AVON

Paul Weatherill from Watton Rotary Club has completed his 3 days sail on the Avon from Stratford on Avon to Tewkesbury from Saturday 29 April – Monday 01 May in ShelterBoat2, a home-made small dingy built around a ShelterBox.

A total of 43 miles, negotiating 16 locks, was covered, an epic adventure in aid of ShelterBox Disaster Relief, the route was from Stratford on Avon Boat Club via Welford, Bidford, Evesham, Pershore, to Tewkesbury Town Hall American Gardens, as per the attached route plan.

LOCAL ROTARY CLUBS

5 local Rotary Clubs from Stratford on Avon, Bidford & Alchester, Evesham, Pershore and Tewkesbury were involved along the route, and they all hosted a finishing event at the American Garden, Tewkesbury Town Hall.

These Rotary Clubs contributed to Paul's journey in numerous ways and their support was very much appreciated.



Launch at Stratford

Stratford on Avon – the Mayor started the event and toasted the journey to come with champagne, over ShelterBoat2 including Paul.

Bidford & Alchester – a ShelterBox tent was erected, and a collection taken.



Leaving Stratford

Evesham – an ongoing Regatta was halted while Paul sailed into a berth.

Pershore – a ShelterBox tent was erected, and a collection taken.



Just enough room at Eckington Bridge

Tewkesbury – Paul was escorted on the river by an amphibious car.

Also, from Severn Sailing Club to Tewkesbury, Paul was escorted by a flotilla of about 20 boats and kayaks on the final stretch of the journey, and greeted on arrival by the Mayor of Tewkesbury.

NEGOTIATING 16 LOCKS

Some locks and weirs were tricky for ShelterBoat2 due to high water levels, and a car was noted at one point stuck in the riverbank.

A team of volunteers from Watton Rotary Club consisting of Paul & Ali Chubbock and Francis Ulrych followed Paul by road and assisted ShelterBoat2 at these locks, and were also very much appreciated.

Other members of Watton Rotary Club were present over the 3 days to give moral support.



Local Rotary support at Bidford

Some locks were not accessible by road, and these were handled by a safety boat crew consisting of Joe Weatherill, Paul's son, with friends Joshua, Kevin, Andy and Dan, again very much appreciated.

SHORE CREW CHEER LEADERS & HELPERS

Special thanks to Gerry Foster, ex Vicar of St Mary's Church, Watton and Pauls' wife Christina Weatherill, plus Katie and baby Lucy.

Special thanks also to Dave Foster, Gerry's husband, for his invaluable assistance in administration, planning, route guidance, and liaising with local Rotary Clubs to ensure that ShelterBoat2 arrived at the scheduled stops within the planned time frames.

SHELTERBOOT 20 MAY

Yes, ShelterBoot not ShelterBoat, as Dave Foster is about to undertake an epic walk across England and Wales, from Compass Point Lowestoft the most easterly point in England, to St. David's Pembroke the most westerly point in Wales, a distance of 420 miles, commencing on 20 May.

Dave will be camping each night on route, over his planned approx. 5 week walk, and again local Rotary Clubs are involved on route, further information to follow.

David Branson

Watton Rotary Club