



YDAG Newsletter

Issue 20

Autumn 2009

Summer School 25th Birthday Celebration.



Bonjour YDAGger!!

Do not worry, we haven't gone all French here. Just a slight change to the format of this newsletter and is a bit leaner.

As usual we have some stories of previous events and more information of up-coming events. Hopefully this will encourage you to do a bit more for DELTA.

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A lot of you may have already knows this via post or via Chattering newsletter but it will be 25 years since the first summer school started and all of us are invited to this celebration this month.

Date: Saturday 24th October

Location: Stareton Hall & Grounds, Stoneleigh Park, Warwick.

Time: From 11am onwards

11am— Arrival & Registration

12pm— Lunch followed by AGM

2pm— Workshops & Activities

4pm— Chairman Arrival

4.30pm—Keynote Address

5pm— Balloon Race & Free time

6pm— Evening Celebration Meal followed by Entertainment and Dancing

However us YDAG will have an opportunity to celebrate to have our own night of celebration on Friday 23rd October 2009. The Saturday's event may be too formal for us so at least on Friday we can do it in our own usual style and catch up.

Accommodation:

Please read the leaflet on the website and make a booking directly with Stoneleigh Park or please contact Edward Stuart on email using Edd@ydag.co.uk, if you are willing to pair up with someone and stay at Blackdown Village (luxury youth hostel style).

You can state your preference on who you want to share with and whether you want to stay on Friday night, Saturday night or both nights so he can arrange a group booking using £30 double room. If booking direct then remember to mention DELTA Summer School Celebration to obtain a special rates at Stoneleigh Lodge, or Blackdown Village which is where most YDAGgers have booked: the rates are £25 per single or £30 per double.

Fees:

Admin Fee: £5 per person

Evening Dinner: £15 per person (Admin Fee not required to be paid)

Balloon Race: £1 per ticket

If you haven't got a booking form, then go the DELTA website:

<http://www.deafeducation.org.uk>.

Hitz's – not that everyone can be bothered to read this right??

25 years!!

I did not know that DELTA has been around that long. I would encourage all volunteers to come to Warwick for Summer Schools 25th birthday and catch up with usual volunteers.... and meet old volunteers. There will be families there to meet so they can see what a lively crew we have. Please do not disappoint us!!

My desire to support DELTA is still strong as ever and will hope to have many opportunities to raise money in a few charitable events. After a year from out, I am ready and charged up so expect big things. I managed to include DELTA as one of the nominees to receive part of the money raised from a community fundraiser from my work. Just a little mention of the volunteer work you do for us to your workplace can raise a bit of awareness for DELTA.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Becci- You should all read this my words prevent wrinkles...

Hello all...

Huge thank you to my lovely co-ed for all his hard work on this snazzy ed of the newsletter!

The summer saw yet more fund raising delights, and the autumn season promises a lot of parties! We're all very pleased to see in Summer Schools 25th birthday with a bang! It's always good to celebrate the success that comes from all our hard work and I hope many of you will be able to make it. And I'm sure I'll be seeing some faces at the upcoming Halloween and Bonfire gatherings in Leicester.... However, no brave souls have offered to organize this year's Xmas do! If anyone's got some ideas let us know!

Keep up the good work with the fundraising.... Whoever raises the most money this year wins my hat———>

Lots of love

Bex xxxxxx



GREAT NORTH RUN EPICNESS

It was perfect start to the day, 7am wake-up call, chilly morning, Roz's burned porridge... nah, just kidding! Sunday 20th September was sunny and crisp, a perfect day for running a half marathon (if indeed there ever IS a perfect day) and of course Roz's porridge with golden syrup and bananas was nothing short of spectacular!

We were met at the start of the race by the lovely John Matthews, who gave us our swanky new DELTA running shirts! As me and my running partner Matt had already agreed to dress in fancy dress as the 118 118 marathon guys, we came to a compromise and pinned the shirts onto our bums, so we advertised DELTA in a great way while we ran!

The run itself was fantastic, with a great atmosphere and a plethora of wild and wacky costumes. Particular highlights included the showers along the way (ahhh), trying to keep my massive pornstar 'tache on after it slipped off with sweat after about half a mile... and weeing in a bush outside, and I mean RIGHT outside, somebody's living room window along the route!

We met all the other runners at the finish and had a well-deserved pint and sausage 'n' chips. All-in-all it was a fantastic day, and I want to say a big thank-you to my lovely boyfriend Matt who ran for DELTA with me. He encouraged me the whole way, and we've raised nearly £500 between us. He enjoyed meeting the DELTA crew and we look forward to the next outing - though maybe one with less pain this time guys?! :-)

I can't run. I am 22 and diet has consisted mainly of alcohol and restaurant food for the last 4 years, and the last time I ran was in high school. Yet the Great North run was a challenge and I believe that anyone with the motivation and a bit of training can do it.

Thank you to the lovely Roz White for putting us up, and to the equally lovely and no less pretty Mr. Rex, who orchestrated our being there and meeting Roz for the first time. And thank you to Steve Matthews who did a fantastic job of organising everything and was always on hand to answer questions. See you all soon!



Legging it to the beach in the name of DELTA



It is unsurprising that I, famed for my love of living in Newcastle, am reporting to you all on yet another sterling Great North Run effort from the YDAG members. However, I am as surprised as you are that I report to you as one of the runners. I am one of many people who thinks of myself as fit and capable but when it comes to running crumble like a cheap biscuit and want to stop before reaching the first mile. Let us not forget my previous attempt a few years ago which almost finished me off!

So why, I hear you ask, would I put myself through the humiliation of finishing hours after everyone else, not to mention the physical pain and the ever so attractiveness of being red/ bordering on purple in the face and sweating like a.... Well anyway, it wasn't so I could high five Sting at the starting line (yes he was there, no, I had no idea he was there) it was because DELTA really needs us to step it up and make an effort to keep it going.

It was at this year's summer school, when I suddenly re-realised something I've known my whole life- that DELTA really does opens up doors for children into a world of language that would otherwise be shut off. This year's adventures in Pontins convinced me that there is still a place for DELTA today and inspired me to make a complete fool of myself in my own city in order to raise some money to keep the good work going.



And I wasn't alone in my endeavour. Those YDAGs who completed this great 13.1 mile challenge (and with a lot more class than me) included Edd Stuart, the legend that is John Matthews and lovely Ed Rex (FYI me & Rex got a shout out for DELTA at the starting lines to tens of thousands of people!) We also saw first time GNRers Ruth MacMullen and her lovely fella Matt finish the half marathon side by side dressed rather ridiculously as the 118 guys. Nice. I'd also like to big up new YDAG Becca and the ever faithful Roz for all their support in seeing us off at the start line.

So where were you lot hey? When was the last time you raised money for the cause that brought us all together? We once treated summer schools like naughty teenagers - we go to have a laugh and see our friends, and because lets face it, we cant get enough of Camelot. But things are changing and its up to use to bring home the bacon for DELTA.

I'd just like to add a big thank you to those YDAGs who sponsored me and my running buddies/ the clouds of dust miles ahead of me. And let you all know I'm NEVER EVER doing it again.

It's your turn this time. xx

V FESTIVAL (uncut by Edward Rex)

'Sarah, I'm afraid I have to go NOW!' I pleaded. She turned her head slowly, eyes glinting in jealousy. 'Must you really?', she snarled, 'what about me?' 'Sorry, but I can't help being who I am...I'm made this way.' She turned back to the view of a goat sat on a man's lap at the steering wheel and considered my plea. This, readers, was during the great traffic jam of J12 of the M6 on one rainy Friday morning.



Suddenly, there was movement on the side of the road. I quickly pointed out to her and she sighed in despair and flicked her hand at me, and I was free! I opened the car door and sprinted with joy to the tree line at the ditch on the side of the road and did my business. I joined many men in the collective sigh of, really rather, going to the toilet! You may be frowning in disapproval and knowing my friend Catherine, she would be clucking in disapproval. BUT, imagine being stuck in the same place for 3 hours and you've drunk many lucozades in order to keep awake since the god-forsaken hour of 6am! I'm sure you would rather hear about the festival rather than my bowel movements.

After driving (or lack of) for 8 hours and Tara's car mysteriously passing us even though they were $\frac{3}{4}$ mile back, Sarah and I finally arrived at the campsite! Or so we thought, we found we had to do more queuing but thus we were entertained by burly men being wildly scared by a bee and I thought I spotted Tara and company but turned about to be a bunch of Chinese girls (prescription glasses anyone?) Thus we cracked open a can of beer to toast our arrival and finally found Tara and company in the middle of thousands of tents that were clearly found between the Bolton Wanderers Flag and the Israeli Flag.



After exchanging various pleasantries and insults with Tara, I went off to find the legendary Steve Adderley, who could be found in his cow tent and Mr Alex Pratt, who could be found asleep in his palace of a tent! I jumped on him naturally and he weren't best pleased

when he realised he would have to move to join me and Sarah. After setting up Steve and Alex, the 4 of us went to the magical area to get our wristbands, which I got for 2 beautiful ladies (naturally I charmed them and had to be the big hero to them when the stamping machine broke). We also had a wander and picked up various items people have dropped and immediately gave them to Sarah who appreciated the rusty necklace I found and Steve brandished his twig of doom and we went to a duel! Anyways, we went back to campsite and watched Tara try to B-B-Q which was amusing (guys, Tara and I have a love-hate relationship) and I recruited Steve to go back to the car park to carry 'essential' supplies back to the campsite...that is if we could find the car!



Anyways, 20 mins later we found it and after setting off the car alarm bringing several suspicious looks from the stewards we emptied the car and TRIED to roll the trolley but supplies kept falling off and thus desperate times called for desperate measures...

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I stripped off my top and tied the sleeves so in a sense I have a carrier and filled many supplies within. We finally arrived at the campsite and were gratefully fed burgers and sausage butties in the BBQ fog of thousands of BBQs. It was unreal to look across the tent landscapes and feel the atmosphere and many sonic waves could be heard rushing to us! Steve and I would often jump to the wave and scream as it passed us by. After Tara 'complimented' me greatly on my topless body, we all had a chat and then it was off to bed!



'HONK!' I suddenly woke and slapped my hand against the tent wall and elbowed Sarah in the head, and water droplets cascaded upon us. Sarah groaned sleepily and covered her head with the sleeping bag. I peeked out and was dismayed to find the place was wet! Does this mean extreme muddiness? But luckily, as I wandered to the portaloos singing 'waterloo' which then turned to 'portaloos, I was defeated, by the smell of poo'....anyways, the sun gloriously came out and everyone smiled and I talked to many festival goers discussing the acts etc. I came back to the campsite and had a brekkie bar and orange juice amongst other supplies and excitedly awaited the music acts that would come later on in the day.

By 10am, Steve, Sarah, Alex and I wandered down to the arena and looked around the stalls and I bought sunglasses shaped in red love hearts and then it got really hot! We enjoyed looking at the stalls and there was a weird stall selling flavoured oxygen. After loads of chuckling around and trying on silly hats, I suddenly heard a brisk voice... 'excuse me! Would you like to participate in this?' I looked around and saw an embarrassed looking woman holding a clipboard. Obviously she has singled me out of the hundreds that were milling about us. I smiled Waverley and asked what she was asking me to do. She pointed behind her shoulder and following her direction my eyes rested upon a bus with 'Chlamydia Screening' on the side. In slow motion my face dropped and noticed my fellow festival-goers falling about laughing. 'Hmmm, I'll pass.' She gave me a dirty look and I wandered off embarrassed thinking I was singled out!

Luckily, my thoughts were interrupted by the starting of the acts! We went to see 'Lights' a Canadian electronic pop group that was fronted by the most beautiful Canadian woman I've ever seen. I tried to get her attention with my eyebrows and I think it kinda worked despite Sarah laughing at my attempts! Their music was really really good and it was the best kick off the festival. Soon afterwards, we saw 'The Gay Blades' a group of extremely hilarious and energetic men and 'Sneaky Sound System' an electronic group I've never heard of before to become one of the best music I've ever heard! I was certainly jumping up and down with my hands outstretched in the air pumping to the rhythm and enjoying the light show, whilst singing the words I would hear in the throes of bass. After their 40min set, we all came out buzzed and decided to get some food for lunch and ate while listening to the mournful music of James Morrison. He's a good singer that man!

After lunch, I noticed Steve scrabbling around on the floor picking up empty plastic cups. Turns out, if you hand back just 1 cup, you get 10p back. Over the course of the day Steve managed to pocket at least £6!

Attempts to meet up with Tara and co failed as the phone reception was pretty bad and thus since leaving them applying make-up at the campsite, we wouldn't see them till we got back to the campsite late at night.

Meanwhile, we saw the rockiness that is Biffy Clyro, a group I often heard about from my hearing friends, Athlete, a band I loved for a while, and Elbow. All were amazing and thus added extra music on my ipod later when I got home!



We got some dinner, the noodle kind and ambled back to the main stage to party with the main acts that is Snow Patrol and Oasis (incidentally later turned out to be their last gig ever!). Both were absolutely fantastic and we all enjoyed it! I got chatting to a pair of girls called Helen and Chris and it turned out that Helen's family is campaigning for deaf aural causes. We carried on talking and we got on really well, too well said Steve! Oasis ended the day with a bang and I really enjoyed singing along with them to the tunes of Wonderwall and Half the World Away. Afterwards, we all walked back to campsite (a 30min walk and imagine if you've been standing in sandals all day!) and went to bed enthusiastic about the next day.

Dawn broke and I was already up and about singing portaloos again and went back to see Tara and co bringing down their tents as they would be leaving after the headline act that night to avoid traffic. Anyways, Steve, Sarah and I went into the Arena looking at the stalls again to get presents for Steve's family and also buy some more stuff and especially some new sunglasses for me as I lost my new ones from the previous day! Alex left us to spend the day on his own as he wanted to see different bands. We all went to the main stage to watch McFly, a favourite band of mine, despite protests by Sarah and Steve. We got very close to the front and needless to say after the thousands strong crowd singing together YMCA, Sarah and Steve enjoyed McFly! Steve particularly enjoyed it as a young woman asked him to give her a shoulder lift so she could see above the crowd! Sarah enjoyed her UV colours on her face and she did me and Steve! I suddenly found myself on TV and like the cool guy I am, I spent my 10 seconds of fame I jumped and squealed like a girl! The rest of the early afternoon was spent watching Starsailor and Red Light Company. We decided to be British and get our weekly craving for fish and chips! We wolfed it down so fast before you could say battered sausage.

Back to the main stage and watched the stunning performance of 'The Script' who I heard was very grateful for the immense crowd wanting to see them as only 2 years prior they were in the crowd! After an emotional performance, many people decided to get the hell out as Lily Allen was on and decided to go and see Dizzee Rascal who in my mind is brilliant! I could not believe the size of the crowd and Steve, Sarah and I were squished in at the side! I left Sarah and Steve to enjoy the rest of Dizzee's set as I went to see Will Young at another stage on my own! He gave a sterling performance and had the crowd jumping on their feet! Afterwards, I made my way back to find Sarah and Steve and we all watched the 'Wombats' and 'The Ting Tings.' I was very tired by this point and spent both their acts sat down to rest my feet! After dinner and wine, I was very perky and changed into a chequered shirt in honour of the Killer who I would see as the Headliner later that night. But first, we were to see 'Pendulum' who Steve, Sarah and I agreed upon gave the best performance ever in V Festival! Sarah decorated both me and Steve with UV rods and necklaces etc and we danced amid the rain of beer! It was unbelievably hectic and I loved it dancing to the rhythm and the explicit performance! Afterwards, Sarah and Steve both wanted to see Fatboy Slim but for me, it had to be the Killers. So on I left on my own once again and worked my way to the front to enjoy a truly fantastic show! They gave such a stunning show to close the festival and they came on again to encore.

Then it was finished!

I made my way back to the campsite after getting lost twice in the wrong campsite but luckily, I asked many stewards who pointed me the way back and gave me verbal directions. I got back to find Sarah, Steve and Alex already back and I collapsed on my outdoor chair, my feet were throbbing! And that night, both Sarah and I slept soundly.

At 6.30am, Sarah and I awoke to immediately take down the tent and aim to leave the campsite at 7.30am. We packed very well and rushed to the car to try and beat the traffic after saying our farewells to Steve and Alex. We got to the car, loaded it up and before getting in, we paused. Sarah and I looked at each other and we knew that before leaving the campsite, what we would do? Go to the Portaloos!

Luckily, the way was free and we got out and onto the M6 quickly! Hurrah! And onwards to sleep!

Announcements and Up-coming Events

October 24th 2009

DELTA 25th Celebration at Warwick

October 25th 2009

Great South Run, Southsea, Portsmouth

October 31st 2009

Edward Rex and Ian McDonald's Halloween House Warming Party

December 5th 2009

10am to 3pm, The 6th Annual DELTA's Christmas Party at Greenmeadow Community Farm, Cwmbran, NP445AJ. Visit the website or contact Lynn Hounsome for further details.

This link has more information regarding the venue of the party:
www.greenmeadowcommunityfarm.org.uk

December 6th 2009

Music Making Money event hosted and supported by the Monmouth Music Theatre. See this link for more information: www.carmenchallenge.com

9th May 2010

DELTA's Reigate to Brighton Bike Ride (provisional date)

(for more and more information for above events, please go to the DELTA's homepage: <http://www.deafeducation.org.uk>)

We currently have no volunteers to organize the YDAG's Xmas Meal this year. Please contact me or Becci Sharpe if you wish to organize it. Christmas is coming soon!!!!

DELTA HOODIES—the must-have for the winter coming!!!

If you want a Hoodie with a DELTA logo, you can order them at the Celebration Event on 24th October, if unable to attend then please email lghounsome@gmail.com as quickly as possible as the orders will be placed soon after the event.

These will then be posted out to you for an additional small charge.

Whispers from DELTA crew:

Want to read the latest updates on what our Roz White been up in her battle against her cancer. It is very inspiring and amusing to read. See her blogs at:

<http://rozandthe-hodge.blogspot.com/>

Specsaver (Daniel Rule) & Caterpillar (Catherine Wells) are finally engaged. They met through DELTA's Swimming Gala in Loughborough 2003. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HAPPY COUPLE.

Myself finally had a haircut after a year long of growing it. If was asked that was having a long hair made him happy....the answer is YES!!

Edwina (Ed Rex) has moved to Leicester to start his new graduate job with Severn Trent. Just to prove that deafness do not get in the way of achieving things. CONGRATS ED!! Another rumour or two has developed since he moved. Watch this space.

ANY NEWS THAT YOU WISH US TO SHARE, PLEASE CONTACT US. AWARE THIS IS NOT USED AS A DATING PAGE OR WANT TO SELLS YOUR PERSONAL GOODS UNLESS THE MONEY GOES TO DELTA.

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