



THE NSPCC SWINDON ROWING TEAM - "COTSWOLDS TO CAPITAL"

4 – 6 AUGUST 2022 – Rowing 124 miles from Lechlade to Teddington

In 1992 the NSPCC recognised the need for a physical centre in Swindon to help local children and their families suffering the consequences of child abuse. At that time, although there had been an Inspector based in the town for over 100 years, there was no building in which to provide these services and NSPCC could not afford to establish such a unit without local funding.

In response some local businessmen and women formed a support group called "Swindon Business Cares for Children" which raised sufficient money in a year to purchase and equip a house which was officially opened as a Child Protection Centre by Princess Margaret in November 1993.

Since then the Centre has continued to provide services to help children and their families to recover from the impact of abuse. The team works with children who have suffered from all types of abuse which includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and those who have experienced domestic violence.

The level of demand for the services of the Centre has grown dramatically over the years and over 800 children and adults were helped last year. Regrettably this trend continues and, due to the inevitable financial constraints, there is a waiting list of children in need of the services available at the Centre.

Swindon Business Cares for Children continues to raise money to support the running of the Centre and since its inception has raised over £850,000. In 2005 the group rowed from Lechlade to Teddington raising over £17,000 and in 2019 repeated the feat in just 3 days raising £15,000. That required a team of 8 people but as four of that crew are now well into their 70's they have handed over the fundraising baton to the next generation and the younger four of that crew plus one addition will take on the challenge again in August this year.

Please support us by completing and sending this form with a cheque payable to NSPCC Registered Charity to Alan Fletcher 6 The Avenue, Stanton Fitzwarren Swindon SN6 7SE this or by donating via our fundraising webpage at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nspccswindonthamesrow>

I wish to support and sponsor the NSPCC Rowing Team and enclose a cheque for £..... payable to NSPCC

Name.....

Address.....

THE NSPCC SWINDON ROWING TEAM
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The Rowers – Right to Left

Sowande Coker – Sowande lives in London and works for US law firm Hogan Lovells LLP. leading recruitment for London. He's an excellent all-round sportsman and with some rowing under his belt he's enjoyed getting back into the boat, although he's more likely to be found wearing the 14 shirt on the rugby pitch and has been capped for Wales in touch rugby.

Paul Fletcher – Paul is a technical buyer for a Formula One team and has his own business Old Town Upholstery. He has completed the Great North Run and the Bath Half-Marathon to raise money for Cancer Research but had never set foot in a boat until completing the Cotswold to Capital challenge in 2019 and still recognises that rowing 124 miles with a crew of just five is a huge challenge.

Warren Nienaber Warren is a Civil Engineer working for PFA Consulting in Swindon. He used to row when he was at Plymouth University and was a member of the crew that completed the Cotswold to Capital challenge in 2019. Since then, he's become a keen road cyclist, logging over 2000 miles in the first half of this year, participating in various endurance events around Europe. Despite that, the updated challenge of completing the distance with a single crew in three days is not being taken lightly. He is nonetheless eager to hit the water again for this worthy cause

Ashley Egerton - A new recruit to the team and a novice rower, Ashley stepped into a rowing boat for the first time this month and now realises what a challenge he has taken on. He drives HGVs for Marks and Spencer and is an enthusiastic addition to the team.

John Jefferies – John has been a motorcycle enthusiast from an early age and rode for Swindon Robins Speedway team in his teens. He went on to have a very successful grass track career and is now General Manager of MotoCave based on Kembrey Park providing motorcycle service and sales. He limits his competitive riding to Mountain bikes these days but he ran the Swindon Half Marathon in 2019 for the NSPCC and hopes to be fit enough to run the Bath Half-Marathon in October this year.