

Ian Hazel Funerals supports record-breaking challenge for Kidney Research UK

An intrepid young lady from Sutton Coldfield set off on February 1st 2010 from Guys Hospital London to walk clockwise around the entire coastline of mainland Britain.

Amy Leigh, aged 39 is trekking around the country to raise money for Kidney Research UK in memory of her brother Dean who sadly passed away due to renal failure in 2005.

Her journey was thrown into jeopardy two months before the journey began after a pledge to donate a support vehicle fell through. But Ian Hazel of Ian Hazel Funerals based in Sutton Coldfield came to the rescue and kindly donated a camper van to support her cause.

The vehicle is being driven by Amy's brother Andrew who sets up camp each night to ensure she has somewhere comfortable to sleep and a hot meal.

Amy said she was feeling 'Anxious but tired' with all the last minute preparations before setting out on her journey. "I can't really portray how grateful I am to Ian Hazel. The challenge would have gone ahead anyway, but this donation has made it much more comfortable, safe and practical."

Amy aims to cover the 6,824 miles over the following eight months and is currently about to start the section between the Severn Estuary and Wales

The severe weather storms and snow at the start of her journey caused major disruptions and initially set her back 4 days from her planned schedule of completing the challenge in 240 days. On day 19, Ian Hazel joined Amy in her walk from Portsmouth to Fareham in Hampshire. Amy said "It was good to have some friendly faces to share the walking with. I feel very isolated some days being on my own from eight to ten hours at a time." Ian left Amy in Fareham after raising her spirits with hot chocolate and cake. Ian states "It was nice to see Amy so motivated again after the initial setbacks caused by the exceptional weather conditions. "Having walked this bit of coastline with her I can see her frustrations, as you can see where you want to get to, but as you approach you suddenly find another inlet which adds a few more miles to your path."

On day 47 a milestone was reached when after 1144 miles Amy arrived at Lands End. She said " the walking is just like I imagined it to be when I was planning the challenge months ago. A mixture of grassy cliff top paths, narrow lanes through pretty coastal villages, cobbled lanes winding through historic fishing towns and harbours, breath taking climbs up steep rugged tracks and peaceful woodland rambling. All this in glorious sunshine and with only a hint of sore and aching limbs."

Ian Hazel would like to encourage anyone who is in the vicinity of Amy as she travels around the country to offer support, donations to Kidney Research UK or accompany her for part of the trek to ensure she is safe and doesn't feel isolated on this fantastic challenge she has set herself.

Donate online at: <http://www.kidneyresearchukevents.org/amyscoastalchallenge> or to join her on her trek you can download Amy's Journey Plan from www.ianhazelfunerals.co.uk/news.html and keep up to date on her progress on her facebook page 'Amy Goes Coastal'.

For more information contact Ian Hazel Funerals on **0121 308 2288** or visit **www.ianhazelfunerals.co.uk**.

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