

Capital Challenge 2022 Report

The last time the Capital Challenge ran as planned was 2019. We introduced a new route in 2022, running from Tower Bridge out to the Thames Barrier and then south through a string of parks and green spaces to end in Anerley

This year's event was nearly fully booked, with 197 people registered for the walk and 177 showing up on the day (we had quite a few cancellations because of positive tests for Covid-19, and we're grateful to those folks for taking themselves out of the event). Eight people retired during the walk, leaving 169 completers.

Finish times ranged from 5 hours and 48 minutes to 11 hours and 10 minutes.

Some stats on the 197 people who registered for the event:

All were registered as UK residents. Twenty-nine (15%) did not register as LDWA members. Of the 168 who registered under an LDWA group, these were the numbers per group (7 were undeclared):

Anytime Anywhere	2	Mersyside	1
Beds, Bucks & Northants	8	Norfolk & Suffolk	12
Bristol & West	4	South Pennine	1
Cornwall & Devon	1	South Wales	15
Cumbria	1	Surrey	8
Dorset	2	Sussex	12
East Lancashire	6	Thames Valley	11
East Yorkshire	1	The Irregulars	2
Essex & Herts	19	Wessex	4
Heart of England	12	West Lancashire	3
Kent	9	Wiltshire	7
London	19	Yorkshire Coast	1

Ages ranged from 22 to 78 years, clustered thus:

20-29 years	9	4.5%
30-39 years	8	4.0%
40-49 years	26	13.2%
50-59 years	73	37.1%
60-69 years	62	31.5%
70-79 years	19	9.6%

Feedback

Marshals throughout the walk reported good feedback and said walkers seemed generally cheery despite a few blisters and some sore knees. Post-event feedback via email and Facebook has been supportive. Excerpts below:

- A fantastic walk encountering donkeys, a fox, 3 snow falls, a blizzard, stark clear hot sunshine, lots of delightful dogs, a leisurely breakfast, an even more leisurely lunch, the fantastic Gormley statue close to the Thames Barrier, a chance to gawp at the storm damage of O2's roof and the excellence of the interpretation wall of the path of the Thames.
- Thanks again to you and your team for organising such a fantastic day yesterday. I know how much time and energy goes into making these events a success - the route was interesting, great directions and perfect weather. I hope to be there again next year!
- Great event, my first - thank you.
- Thank you for a brilliant challenge event. It was run fantastically. Can't wait for next year's event already!
- This was a fabulous event, please pass on our thanks to the organisers, marshals, route describers et al. The route description was particularly well written and helpful we found and the kind people at all the checkpoints were lovely. Enjoyed the gazetteer - just enough to make it all interesting but not too much to make it arduous! Loved the route - although we were tiring of suburbia by the last few miles - but the cake was a fine high point on which to end. Thank you all so much for putting on this event, and for organising such spectacular weather - with just enough snow to add interest without actually getting us too cold or wet!
- A huge thank you for organising the 2022 Capital Challenge. It was an excellent route through some fascinating area of London, most of which were unfamiliar territory to me - a real journey of discovery! It all went so smoothly (and we all know that only happens as a result of a hell of a lot of hard work!) and above all it was just a joy to be a part of it.
- It was a really enjoyable route with so much of interest to see, and I for one certainly didn't realise there was quite so much green space south of the river (although Mudchute took me by surprise as well - it seemed as though we were suddenly in the middle of the countryside). There are a lot of places I need to take a more leisurely visit to now. Full marks to whoever wrote the route description as well - not only was it spot on with directions, but it had that lovely touch of humour we have come to expect on the Capital Challenge. All of the marshals were absolutely brilliant - friendly, welcoming and encouraging. And those based outside must have been freezing as well. A special shout out to Neil and the young lady with him (sorry don't know her name) who enthusiastically waved us on once we turned the last corner at the finish. And a final shout out to the cake at the end - delicious!

Donations

We used income from this event to make donations of £50 each to Bliss (The Scoop's nominated charity) and St Edward's Church, £200 to The Thames Path, and £250 to the NEC's IT maintenance fund.

And thank you!

Thanks to our superb group of cheery, enthusiastic marshals, to Gordon Parker for running the start and finish points so efficiently, and to Marie Heracleous for keeping the checkpoints organised throughout the day and sorting out the food at the end point.

Finally, thank you to our start, finish, and checkpoint hosts: The Scoop, Cutty Sark Gardens, Charlton Park, St Edward's Church, and St. Hugh's Community Centre.

Jean O'Reilly

Organiser, Capital Challenge 2022