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## **Sawston Fun Run & Walk attracts one of its highest turnouts**

The Sawston Fun Run exceeded expectations on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> with one thousand, one hundred and six entrants being on the starting lines of the two charity fun runs that have earned its reputation as being one of the best community events of its type in the county. Organised by the Rotary Club of Cambridge Sawston, it attracted the third highest turnout in the thirty-four year history of the event and augers well for the minimum target of £15,000 being generated; this will take the cumulative total to over £470,000 that has been donated to local charities and organisations.

Elite runners from clubs in surrounding counties, social runners and families came together to complete either the 7.4k run or the shorter 4K route for walkers and the race for school years 1-6. The fine weather was ideal for the runners and it brought out large crowds who lined the streets, who with the Sawston Youth Group Band and the local samba band in the High Street, gave encouragement to walkers and runners alike.

The start and finish at Sawston Village College attracted crowds who enjoyed the fancy-dress competition, the children's slide, face painting, a fire engine and numerous side stalls. In addition to the runners Spiderman; Superman, Wonder Woman and many more were present in fancy dress adding to the family appeal. Many of the entrants commented on the event by saying 'the appeal of the event is the special atmosphere created by the community support around the course; it's like the London Marathon, so different from normal runs'.

The overall winner was John Baslington of Sawston in a time of 25.00 minutes and the winning lady was Kristy Guneratne of Shelford; Sue Woods of Sawston won the over 55 years ladies race for the fifth consecutive year. The first Sawston Village College girl was Sophie Brock who also came first in 2018 in the school years 7- 11 category and the first Sawston Village College Boy was Mathew Smith. John was especially pleased as he's entered the event over many years, from being a student at Sawston Village College and came back from his army base to enter. The most successful family, for the second year, were the Courtois family of Great Abington who had Simon coming first in school years 1-6; mother Sophie coming second in the 40-54 and father Vincent coming third in the 40-54 categories.

The biggest winners will be the Cambridge Cancer Help Centre of Shelford and the other beneficiaries: Footprints café, Icknield Primary School; Sawston Youth Drama, Sawston Youth Group; Granta School, Linton; Pippins Pre-school; Sawston Cinema Club; Sawston Guides; Sawston Sports Centre; Whittlesford U. R. Church Pilates; Whitsers pre-school and the Ladybird Playgroup, Thriplow and seven local primary schools.

Many in the community contributed by providing stalls at the venue or their time as volunteers, such as local aerobics trainer, Marlene Sharpe-Westwood who got the runners warmed up, whilst over 30 members of The Cambridge Building Society undertook numerous supporting roles. The Sawston Youth Group Band attracted crowds in the High Street whilst the scouts, the air and army cadets, the cricket club, members of other Rotary clubs and students from Sawston Village College all helped in different ways.

Chairman of the organising committee Rotarian Ian Chamberlain said 'Many people made the event a big success by supporting us as marshals or by manning water stations. We thank them, staff of The Cambridge Building Society and other sponsors and businesses and those in Sawston who contributed in some way. It was just so good to see everyone enjoying themselves.'

The Rotary club is indebted to the event sponsor The Cambridge Building Society, Jonathan Russell Jon, principal of Sawston Village College and sponsors Adams Harrison, Adcock Engineering, Cooperative Funeral Service, Gibbs Denley F & I Advisers, McDonalds, Morgan Sindall, the Central England Co-op and Sawston Parish Council. as without them the event could not be held.

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