

"The Baton" Charity Run from Brize Norton to the National Arboretum

Former Olympic Gymnast Suzanne Dando will be the only female runner in The Baton's mile relay through the night from Brize Norton to the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA).

The Sky Sports presenter and reporter will be running the relay on the 5th and 6th November alongside eight other civilians and members of the Armed Forces.

"As a Trustee of The Baton Charity, I'm extremely proud to be running as part of the Baton relay team on the 5th November".

Says Suzanne

"Starting from the Britannia Gates at Brize Norton is not only significant, but very poignant, and to complete our run at the NMA reminds us how important it is to remember and continue our support for the brave men & women and the families of our Armed Forces.

"The aim of the event is to raise awareness for the Charity."

This is not the first time The Baton team have completed such a challenge (see past events):

"In the past we have run from RAF Lyneham but this year since the move to Brize Norton we felt that there cannot be a more poignant place to start than the gateway to Afghanistan."

Explains Alan Rowe MBE

"A large part of our cause is to remember the effects of service life, not only on serving personnel but on their families and friends who carry the memories forever.

"Therefore starting the race at Brize Norton, and as with Lyneham in the past, it is important to us because it is where the repatriations are made".

"We will have the pleasure of handing over a cheque of £1000 to the RAF Benevolent Trust before we run."

Fiona Yates, Regional Administrator for the RAF Benevolent Fund said:

"I'd like to thank The Baton for their wonderful donation.

"All the money will go towards our work as the RAF's leading welfare charity, providing support for serving and former RAF personnel and their families."

Running a week before Armistice Day on the 11th November the team aims to remember not just current serving personnel but also those who have fought in previous wars.

"There are over 16,000 names on the wall at the NMA near Lichfield."

Says Alan.

"Each one is that of serving personnel lost since World War Two."

The 14.5 hour run will take them north from Brize up past Coventry and Birmingham, through Nuneaton, around Tamworth to the NMA in Staffordshire, where they will be met with a guard of honour by Taunton Sea Cadets.

Here they will present their second cheque of £500 pounds, which will go towards the upkeep and maintenance of the grounds.

To support Suzanne, Alan and the team please go to

<http://www.bmycharity.com/BatonNMARun2011>

Listen to Suzanne talking about the relay on Mike Howarth's Daily Drill (BFBS)