

## PRESS RELEASE

### ONE MILLION STEPS FOR VIOLET: THE GRAND CHALLENGE OF A GRANDPARENT

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[www.walkingforviolet.com](http://www.walkingforviolet.com) (in both French & English languages)

For one month, from 6 September to 6 October 2019, David Jeapes will be walking the gruelling GR36 route from his home in Saint Pardoux, South-West France, to his granddaughter's home of Hastings, South-East England. David is a 62 year old Englishman and a French resident of the Deux Sèvres.

The length of the route is 775 km, a journey of *one million steps*.

**Why is he doing this?** This challenge is not for recreation or for pilgrimage, but to raise funds for his granddaughter, Violet aged 4.

Violet has a debilitating medical condition, Cerebral Palsy, a condition that affects one in every 450 children in France and one in 400 in the UK. Violet also has Dystonia and Epilepsy. Violet needs round the clock care, takes daily medication and requires equipment to walk, play and stand.

It is a journey of one generation reaching out to another, across countries, speaking the international language of love and support, a story told a million times within a million families. The difference is that in this instance, the support required is beyond the capacity of the family alone.

Already, his love for his granddaughter has mobilized his friends and community in France and in the UK, who have come together to help to support the walk, host fundraising events, and collect donations.

**David will be travelling through (town/commune) on (date/s) and would love the opportunity to meet local people and share his story.**

David Jeapes is a retired Business Consultant and by his own admission, was overweight and unfit when he first had the idea in January, to do this walk for Violet. He invested in a multi-gym, went on a diet, and began to train by doing longer and longer walks, regardless of the weather conditions.

*'As well as being physically demanding, I know that the journey will be both mentally and emotionally hard for me too. Some days each step might burn, and some days I might feel like giving up.... but none of my steps will ever be as hard as the first steps that my granddaughter took in her specialised walker ... the determination on her little face is motivation enough.'* David Jeapes, Grandfather

**The Route:** Walking 30 km a day with 5 rest days, David plans to complete the walk in 30.5 days. 26 days in France & 4.5 days in the UK.

Greg, a long-time family friend, will drive the support car (called 'Daisy',) to meeting points every 15 km along the route. *Daisy* is 1977 Citroën 2CV.

David's journey will take him through dozens of small towns, villages and hamlets and into the heart of the French countryside.

#### Route in France

6-9 September	From Saint-Pardoux to Blanchard (Deux-Sèvres)
9-13 September	From Blanchard to Châtaignier (Deux-Sèvres)
13-17 September	From Châtaignier to La Bretonnière (Sarthe)
17-22 September	From La Bretonnière to Sillé Plage (Sarthe)
22-27 September	From Sillé Plage to Putanges-Pont-Écripin (Orne)
27-01 October	From Putanges-Pont-Écripin to Ouistreham Ferry Port (Calvados)

#### Route in UK

02 – 06 October	From Portsmouth Port to Hastings (East Sussex)
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**Where will the money go?** All donations will be shared between 'Violet's Fund' and two small nominated charities; one in France and one in the UK.

Charity for KIDS & APEEIMC will both receive 10% of our total raised funds, as of the 31st October 2019.