



# Walking For Violet

by Team #W4V



The start of David Jeapes's epic one million step challenge is almost here.

From 6 September, for one month, he will be walking up the gruelling GR36 route from his home in the Deux-Sèvres to Ouistreham. Then along the south coast of England to Hastings, East Sussex, the home town of his granddaughter, Violet. This challenge (775km) is not for recreation or pilgrimage, but to raise funds for Violet, aged 4. Violet has a debilitating medical

condition, cerebral palsy, which affects all four of her limbs. She also has dystonia (chronic involuntary muscle contractions), epilepsy and a rare chromosome disorder. Violet needs round the clock care, takes daily medication and requires equipment to walk, play and stand.

This challenging walk is not just about raising money, it's also about raising awareness. As well as being incredibly expensive, having a child with complex medical needs brings new challenges each day, some successes, but many failures and stresses. Each 24 hours is an enormous emotional roller coaster.

This 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.

David will arrive in Hastings on 6 October, World Cerebral Palsy Day, to a celebration party at Azur, Hastings, which will include two live local bands, a beach BBQ, an amazing raffle for donated goods and services by local businesses, and will be attended by the Mayor of Hastings, the Deputy Mayor, the Leader of the Council, Meridian TV and the local newspaper.



His love for his granddaughter, and people's desire to help Violet, the little girl with the big smile, has generated a fantastic community spirit here in France and in the UK. There is now a 12 strong support team voluntarily helping with the logistics of the walk (finding accommodation, food stops, clothing, footwear, etc.), creating and generating wide social media coverage, planning and hosting fundraising events and much more.

Heartfelt thanks must go out to the following businesses for everything they have done so far:

Blevins Franks, Le Regal'On Bar and Restaurant, La Germondière France Fishing Gîtes, LPV Technology, Alacim Social Media and Marketing, Educ'Aventure, Camping Court de Vallée, Sarah Berry Online, Café Rendez-vous, TLC

Gîtes and B&B, The Moonshine Club, Neal's Yard Julie Hutchison, Stephen Shaw Cartoonist and Kelly's Pampering. Plus all of the individuals that have already donated, or given up their time to help raise money for Violet's Fund and the local businesses that have donated raffle prizes for past and future events.

## Get Involved

There is still time for you to get involved (you can find out more information on the following from our website):

- Why not walk with David for 10km, 15km or 30km and invite your friends to sponsor you
- Sponsor a bed for the night, a meal, the ferry crossing, new boots, an item of clothing etc.
- Create a link to our website from yours
- Hold a fundraising event
- Pledge money for each step, kilometre or stage of the journey, or a flat amount
- Donate: in euros via Paypal or in pounds via Justgiving
- Offer a bed for the night, or a meal on route
- Organise a fundraising event for one of David's rest days near you:

9 September	Blanchard 79100
13 September	Le Châtaignier 49490
17 September	La Bretonnière 72220
22 September	Sillé plage 72140
27 September	Putanges-Pont-Écrepin 61210



Please follow and support us on social media, and share it as far as you can. 'Like' the Facebook page, 'follow' to get notification of David's live video blogs of his training and the walk; his feelings, the highs and lows, events along the route and details of where he is. Invite your friends to like the page too. Tweet and retweet his journey. Get onto your favourite social media app and raise awareness of the day to day struggles for Violet and her family.

## Fundraising events, dates for your diary:

- 17 August - Horse Racing at Le Regal'On, Allonne
- 24 August - Yoga by Debs Saunders in Saint Pardoux
- 31 August - Jan's Fun Auction in Beaulieu-sous-Parthenay



For updates and information about the main fundraising event  
[www.walkingforviolet.com](http://www.walkingforviolet.com) - [www.facebook.com/Walking4Violet/](https://www.facebook.com/Walking4Violet/) -  
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Association number: W793005002

