

Long walk will raise breast cancer cash



Philippa Knight

THE daughter of a Niton couple is to walk along the Great Wall of China to help raise cash for a breast cancer charity.

Philippa Knight, the daughter of Hilary and Tony Knight from St John the Baptist Church in Niton, will start her trip on September 14. Her 15-day adventure will involve her walking along 205km of the wall to raise money for Breakthrough, a charity that supports scientific research into breast cancer.

And Niton parishioners are among those who have already

sponsored Philippa to make the trip. They raised £350 at a coffee morning in July towards the £15,000 she and a friend hope to collect.

In all, around 200 women were hoping to travel to China to tackle part of the 4,000km wall, which stretches from the Gobi Desert to the east coast. Although the Sars epidemic meant some parts of the walk had to be cancelled, Philippa's group of women have now been given clearance to make the trip.

Local people will be employed

as guides and porters for the all-women walk, and to provide the camp each night with simple food.

Philippa was among the first intake at what is now Trinity C of E Middle School in Newport in 1970, and now lives in Woking, Surrey, with her husband and two children. She had successful treatment for breast cancer herself.

"Hopefully the training we are undergoing will pay off, and we will both complete and enjoy the challenge," she said. "But it's definitely going to be demanding, especially as at the end of each

day of 20-30km we will only be able to dream of a hot bath and comfortable bed!"

She is passionate about the charity, as one in nine women will develop breast cancer at some point in their lifetime, and more than 38,000 women a year are diagnosed with the disease.

Anyone who would like to sponsor her can do so online at: www.justgiving.com/philippa&anna or by contacting Hilary on 01983-730645. More information is available on www.greatwalkofchina.org

Pompey Churches

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Choir pin-ups strip for charity - again



(left) October's pin-up Paul Smith stares moodily as he crouches on the floor of the cathedral's song school; (right): September's hunk Cris Hanson gets busy with a spanner in the bell tower

THEY'RE at it again - those sexy choir members from Portsmouth Cathedral have stripped off for another calendar!

The self-styled Heavenly Hunks bared their muscular torsos for a saucy 2003 calendar that has adorned walls way beyond our diocese. It also raised an impressive £3,000 for charity.

Now the young men have posed around the cathedral for a new set of photos, which are soon to appear in a 2004 charity calendar. It's set to be the must-have Christmas gift to set female hearts fluttering.

The cathedral pin-ups include David Price, 33, organist and master of choristers, stripped to the waist in front of the organ pipes; Portsmouth architecture student Crispian Hanson, 21, flexing his muscles in the bell tower; and Oxford student Gabriel Vick, 21, smouldering over the piano. All 12 models are current or former members of the cathedral choir.

As with the previous calendar, the aim is to make money for the EC Roberts Centre in Landport, Macmillan Cancer Relief and Portsmouth Cathedral Choir Association - and also to show church members having fun. All of the models stripped only to the waist.

"We were staggered by the response to the 2003 calendar," said David Price.

"People from all over the world were buying it. From fairly early on this year, we thought that we'd love to do another."

The 2004 calendar is being launched this month. It can be bought at the cathedral bookshop (023-9234 9430) or ordered via the website - www.heavenlyhunks.co.uk

Dogs, a ferret and a pony flock to pet service

IT was an unusual congregation - dogs of all shapes and sizes, four tortoises, a hen, a ferret and even a Welsh mountain pony!

Whitwell parish church, on the Isle of Wight, welcomed all creatures great and small to a special pet service in July.

The Rev Sandra Lloyd, vicar of St Mary and St Rhadegunde Church, said: "Members of the community

were encouraged to bring their pets along, and there was an impressive selection. There were big dogs and small dogs, three of the four tortoises came together, and the hen was called Hen and sat in a basket.

"It was a good excuse to have some fun. It was also a chance to remind ourselves that we are all part of God's creation.

"Owners were able to give

thanks for not only their current pets but past pets as well. We prayed for people who look after animals such as the RSPCA and there was also a chance for people who aren't usually at the services to come to the church."

"This wasn't the first time that we have had a service like this and we will certainly be doing it again."

Another Isle of Wight

church is planning a special pet service this month.

St Mary's Church in Brighstone will hold its service at 10.30am on September 7 at Brighstone Primary School. Guest preacher Ian Attrill will bring his guide dog.

The vicar of St Mary's, the Rev Tim Eady, said: "We will remember God's love and care for us, and the wonder of his creation."