

Press Release

24 March 2010

XC2010/007 (SH / LW)

DEVON TRAIN DRIVER AIMS TO SMASH CHARITY TARGET

CrossCountry train driver Stephen Parker will once again be leading the Dartmoor Challenge Group this year on its annual 30-mile charity walk over Dartmoor - the largest and wildest area of open country in the south of England.

Princetown-based Stephen, 54, has co-ordinated the charity walk for 19 years having raised over £100,000 for local children's charities in Devon. Stephen formed the group in 1991 to raise money to help children who suffer from cancer and enjoys the support from CrossCountry, one of Britain's largest train operating companies.

This year's event takes place over the weekend of 17/18 April and will see volunteers having the option of a 10-mile or 15-mile route each day.

On day one volunteers will hike from Postbridge to Belstone with the 15-mile course continuing further east to South Zeal. Day two will begin at Princetown with the 10-mile finish at Dartmeet and the full 15-mile route ending in Widecombe-in-the-Moor.

Stephen said: "So much work and commitment has come from so many people over the past 19 years and I'm proud to be part of it. I hope that we'll have another successful year in 2010 and raise even more money for this year's deserving charity, DCCS. We've been lucky to see the benefits that the money has brought cancer sufferers over the years whilst also seeing constant investment into facilities. I'd also like to place on record my thanks to CrossCountry for their support over the past few years."

It's not too late to take part this year. Those interested should email stevenparker1@btinternet.com.

The charities Stephen's Group have supported since 1991 are:

- **Clic Sargent** – a national cancer charity that cares for children and young people
- **Derriford Children's Cancer Service (DCCS)** – a Plymouth-based Children's cancer service
- **St Luke's Hospice** – an award-winning Plymouth-based Hospice providing care to hundreds of people each year in Devon and Cornwall
- **MacMillan Cancer Support** – a national charity providing support, advice and expert information to those affected by cancer

A photograph is attached of Stephen.

ENDS

Please find notes to Editors, CrossCountry facts and figures below.
For more information feel free to contact us on 0121 2006115 or by email to communications@crosscountrytrains.co.uk

Notes to editors

CrossCountry started operating on 11 November 2007. The franchise, which is the most extensive in the UK, will run until 31 March 2016. For further information on CrossCountry services and future franchise plans log on to www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk

CrossCountry is now live on Facebook www.facebook/crosscountrytrains

Arriva is one of the largest private sector providers of passenger transport in Europe, employing more than 43,500 people (including share of associate companies) and providing more than one billion passenger journeys every year.

Arriva provides transport services including buses, trains, commuter coaches and water buses, and operates in 12 European countries: Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

CrossCountry facts and figures:

STATIONS SERVED: 118

ROUTE MILES: 1,654

WEEKDAY SERVICES: 295



PASSENGERS CARRIED: Over 30 million passenger journeys a year anticipated

ANNUAL TRAIN MILEAGE: Approximately 16 million

EMPLOYEES: Approximately 1,700

LONGEST TRAIN SERVICE: 08.20 Aberdeen to Penzance (774 miles)