

Memory Walking on the WSR

Travelling Ticket Inspector Jennie Dunse swapped her normal smart uniform for hi-vis, sturdy walking boots and a Memory Walk T shirt this week to undertake a sponsored walk on behalf of the Alzheimer's Society on a stretch of WSR track this week. Having seen the TV ad promoting the concept of a Memory Walk for the Society Jennie was keen to do something, having lost both her mum and her dad to dementia. Her husband, Mike, a WSR Track Patroller, came up with the idea of accompanying him on a track patrol, which would provide a different type of sponsored walk. The plan was kindly supported by Andrew Young, Head of Infrastructure Engineering, who gave permission for the walk to take place, and the appeal to potential sponsors started.

Jennie comments "I already hold a current PTS and the ability to read a working timetable to work out which direction trains were coming from, and at what time, but I still found it quite a challenge to walk from Washford Station to Williton along the track on an operational day. I was spurred on by the support I have received from friends and colleagues across the railway. I thought I might achieve a modest sum for the Alzheimer's Society, but people have been very generous. I even received a donation from two regular passengers who saw a colleague completing a sponsorship form and offered me some money themselves, which was quite unexpected. I have gained new knowledge about the railway, especially the wide variety of fishplates, sleepers, rail chairs, keys and railhead. Who knew there could be so many designs for such basic items of hardware on the WSR! I have also increased my respect for all those folk who work away usually unseen - the PWay teams, track patrol, and S & T. I was lucky to have a calm, settled, dry day but those guys go out regardless in all weathers to ensure our engines and carriages can continue to run smoothly."

Many sponsors have already paid their contribution but any that have yet to pay can do so by sending a cheque (made out to the Alzheimer's Society) or cash to Jennie c/o Infrastructure Engineering, Bishops Lydeard Station, Station Rd, Bishops Lydeard TA4 3BX, or internally by OCS to BL INFR. If you haven't already offered sponsorship it's not too late to donate to this worthwhile cause, please send any donation as above and your name will be added to the list of sponsors.