

BRADFORD ON AVON MEN TACKLE PEAKS CHALLENGE TO FUND YOUTH WORKER



Dan Jones, James Vaughton, John Fuggle, Dave Joyce and Tom Vaughton train on the Brecon Beacons ahead of their challenge in June

A team of five men are challenging themselves to conquer 15 mountain peaks in under 24 hours to support young people in the area.

James Vaughton, director of Wiltshire Youth For Christ and Bath Youth For Christ, will be joined by his brother Tom Vaughton, trustee of the charity Dan Jones, staff member Dave Joyce, and friend John Fuggle. The faith-based organisation works with the local authority, schools and police as a mentoring service and is expanding into Wiltshire after helping young people in Bath for 30 years.

The group, who are appealing for sponsors, are hoping the challenge on June 13 will raise enough money to appoint a youth worker in Trowbridge and to set up youth cafe drop-in style projects in the area.

James Vaughton, 37, from Bradford on Avon, said: "We are aware of challenges to the youth services but we hope to continue our work to support young people. "I have done a lot of marathons, half-marathons and the three peaks challenge. We wanted to do something challenging, but fun. "If we are going to do a fundraiser it has to be something special. When we are asking people to sponsor us we want to make it worthwhile. "The young people are worth taking on the challenge for."

The team have been preparing for their challenge, known as the Welsh 3,000s because each of the peaks is more than 3,000ft high, with regular gym sessions and trained in the Brecon Beacons a few weeks ago.

They will cover the Carneddau, Snowdon Massif and Glyderau ranges and will tackle Crib Goch, a terrifyingly narrow, craggy ridge with a 1,000 feet drop either side.

Tom Vaughton, 36, from Bradford on Avon, said: "We've put a lot of time and effort into getting fit so we can succeed in this challenge and we need the local community to get behind us now and help raise the £5,000 which is our target. "Our aim is to make a difference to young lives with this fundraiser. For us personally, it's a huge challenge but we are determined to complete it."

James said: "We are excited but still training. We will have to carry plenty of water as hydration will be a challenge. There will be a van to meet us in the valleys, where we will have some pit stops to eat and refuel. "We are looking forward to the challenge and sense of achievement and hope to raise as much as we can."

Wiltshire Times, Tuesday 13 May 2014 by Katie Smith