

The last full weekend in October saw Bryan Carr take part in the 48th running of the original mountain marathon, held over two days in the Scottish borders over 1,500 people were navigating their way up and down the Tweedsmuir hills.

Carr was taking part in the elite event with running partner Jonathan Whilock of Staff Moorlands running club. On Saturday in heavy rain the pair covered 40.8km with 3,390m of climb in just over 10 hours including the ascent of Broadlaw at 800m before setting up camp and squeezing in to the smallest of tents that they had carried with them during the day. With a new dawn came better weather conditions for the next 33.1km with 2,710m of climb taking them nine hours, by the time all the results were in and collated they were 12th from 15 teams to complete the course and in the vets category they finished in first place.

The parkrun event at Astbury Mere every Saturday morning continues to attract a regular number of Congleton Harriers to the 5k run. This weekend nine of them were covering the 3 flat laps around the water along with 202 others and there were notable personal bests for Jamie Jensen finishing in 58th in 22:57 and for Vicii Kirkpatrick finishing 70th in 23:39.

As the calendar page turned over to November one Congleton Harrier was returning to his home town to take part in the Billericay 10k in Essex. On a foggy morning the 567 strong field made their way around the one lap course finishing at Brightside primary school were many years prior Paul Birdsall had attended. Birdsall finished 321st in a time of 55:50.



Birdsall at Billericay 10k 01.11.2015

pic courtesy of Kirsty Bourne

Across into Derbyshire on Sunday, Charmaine Wood was taking part in the 59th Dovedale Dash, a very popular 4.75 mile run across field paths and open ground with highlight of running through or across the river Dove at the well-known stepping-stones site. With over 1,200 runners taking on the challenge Wood finished in a time 40:01 which placed her 248th. The event has a children's race before hand and the whole day is an excellent experience and one for more Harriers to sample in 2016.