

Luke Argall is going on a 10 week expedition in India this October as part of the Raleigh Graduate Bursary Award

Fundraising was definitely a challenge but a thoroughly enjoyable one. After finding out I was going on the expedition I immediately looked for the nearest car boot sale to me. I then sent a text to everyone on my phone asking them for their old junk which I could sell and hopefully raise my £200 deposit. Getting up at 6am was no fun, especially when it was raining but I thought better of it and set off. It was a long day but a friend came down to help me, with his car full of the stuff I couldn't fit in mine, and I ended up with £130. This along with some of my weeks wage got me deposit and so I was away.

After chatting with a few friends about the best way to raise money, someone mentioned about doing the Yorkshire 3 peaks challenge. This is to walk around Pen-y-ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough in less than 12 hours. I thought this would be perfect thing to do as I'm not much of a trekker and I thought it would be good to do something similar to what I'll be doing in India. 6 of us did the 3 peaks walk on the 10th September and again, after a very early start, we did the walk in just under 11 hours. The sense of achievement after finishing the walk was unbelievable and something I'm looking forward to experiencing again in India. Thanks to my mam taking in sponsor forms to her work and church and the five friends who did the walk with me, I raised around £300.

I wanted to try and bring everyone's attention to what I was doing and so I got in contact with my local paper. I had a phone interview which lasted about half an hour and the paper sent someone to take my picture. The write up was published in the following weeks paper and listed all the events I had set up and what I was doing to raise the money. This included the url for the just giving page I set up which came in fantastically useful as I have a lot of relatives who live in Australia – this was a quick and simple way for people to donate and I raised over £300 online.

I organised a charity football match which was my football team – Bingley Town FC against a team of my friends. This was very successful and I raised £110. I also held a charity fundraising night which helped me raise over £300. I charged people 5 in and with that they got their first drink and a bowl of curry free. After that I charged a small fee for food and beer. I had gone round my home town weeks before the event and asked local business' if they could contribute in some way – I got some great raffle prizes including family cinema and bowling tickets, a cycle helmet and a motor cycle racing jacket. After the event I sent the businesses a letter thanking them and telling them how much I raised (I also included the certificate that came with the Raleigh welcome pack).

Organising so much in such a short amount of time was a really big challenge and I was very close to cancelling the charity night after thinking people weren't going to turn up. I stuck at it though and had a really good night and it was all worth it. The satisfaction of organising things and them going really well is immense and when people are there to support you and tell you how proud of you they are, it makes it all worth while and makes you look forward to going even more.