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VIP's RACE RAFT FOR CHARITY



Villagers Vanessa Crowson, Ian Starkey and Pat Summers splashed their way to fifth in class at the recent Deeping Raft Race on the river Welland. Entered as the Maxey VIPs (Vanessa, Ian, Pat) in the pub race, the trio completed the tiring one-mile course in 1hr, 5min, 22.7sec to raise £400 for the Village's charity, MacMillan Nurses.

For the second year running the raft was built by Keith Elliott of School Lane. This time Keith concentrated on lightness, fabricating the craft from expanded polystyrene and plywood.



Before & After: All smiles before the event (left), Maxey VIP's (l-r) Vanessa Crowson, Ian Starkey and Pat Summers. In front is VIP Raft Builder, Keith Elliott. The smiles are just as big afterwards during the post race celebrations in the Blue Bell. The VIP teamsters thanked Keith for his raft-building expertise by presenting with an engraved tankard.



Competitors in the annual event had to battle against the current this year - in the past they've gone downstream. And run the traditional gauntlet of eggs and flour thrown by sections of the 5000 crowd.



Photo captions from top left, clockwise: Just after the start at the Deeping St James footbridge our team are keen and full of energy.

The event quickly turns into a variation of the Japanese game show Endurance, with competitors running the gauntlet of raw eggs and flour bombs off Deeping St James bridge.

The Maxey boat was lighter than some, but it was still a struggle to lift it out of the water and around the locks.

As tiredness set in, progress upstream was very slow until Ian Starkey was volunteered to push. Fortunately the Welland isn't too deep.



The team would like to thank all individual and trade sponsors, who were: Shaws Coaches (Jane Shaw), Trade Transmissions (Neil Marsland) and Maxey Fisheries (Tony Crowson).

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