

Totley parkrun Challenge – Running Rother Valley is a breeze! (Chris Heggs)

A tornado of Totley's tremendous trotters attended Rother Valley Country Park in the most recent parkrun Challenge, for a special one-off away day.

Many members were required to put aside the trail shoes and opt for something a little bit more 'roady' for what the parkrun website describes as 'quite a flat loop' of the Rother Valley lakes.

What the website doesn't mention is that the second mile takes place over ground that is uneven gravel, pot hole ridden and on this particular occasion, quite muddy and had a chilly headwind biting into any exposed skin.

As mentioned earlier, we decided to hold one challenge here to give Totley runners a chance to familiarise themselves with the racing line ahead of the very popular Rother Valley relays held on Tuesday 14th May. (hint: you can still sign up to be a part of the fun!)



49 green goliaths completed the event. No doubt the number of participants was swelled by the exciting news that the Queen of merchandise would once again be opening up her pop-up shop of quality clothing. This time, Bryony was presenting the opportunity to 'try before you buy' a rather fetching green jacket. (available to order now at a reduced, bargain price!)

With Martin Robbins wanting to complete his collection, having purchased every other Totley branded item available to him, he continued his impressive recent running form by smashing yet another personal best, motivated by getting to try on a jacket ahead of 40+ other sweaty runners.

Similar motivation may have led to personal bests for Mick Crookes, Rory Wall, Eddie Smith, Ruth 'beautiful legs' Garbutt & Susie Wall. Well done to you all and I'm sorry to anybody I missed from the list.

Back to the action, and the much-anticipated pairing of Caz Kay and Paul Grayson saw Caz triumph, although both achieved impressive times and age grade percentages.

The closest pairings result saw Eddie Smith edging out Ruth Garbutt by 0.49%.



Whether the challenge returns to Rother Valley next year, we will have to wait and see. For now, we focus on the next event on 4th May (Star Wars day) at the more familiar and slightly hillier Graves park.

I hope to see you there in your full Wookiee outfits, but don't forget the green.