

Cabbies do Kilimanjaro Postpone Epic Challenge until 2021

“Rest assured, we are all proud London Taxi Drivers, who will not give up and will fight for what we believe in, both for our trade and our dreams.” – Daren Parr.

When the fundraising group ‘Cabbies Do Kilimanjaro’ announced that their next fundraising challenge would be to climb both Mount Meru and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania this October, in order to raise funds for The London Taxi Drivers’ Charity for Children and children’s community project in Tanzania, nobody could have predicted what 2020 had in store for the world...

Daren Parr, London cabbie and founder of Cabbies Do Kilimanjaro, said, “Not only did the world shut down, but people stopped going to work, travelling across the city and the tourist trade was decimated. All the many reasons passengers need cabs in London vanished more or less overnight. To compound this the increase in the number of road restrictions across London made it even harder for our historic

and iconic trade to make a living with what little work there was in London. It was really upsetting - many cabbies had to drop out as they couldn’t afford the cost of travel to Tanzania and their kit, as they were getting so little work when they were out and about in their cabs.”

But through all this adversity, fifteen men and women have demonstrated amazing depth of character, prepared to sacrifice whatever it takes to complete their dream and, in the process, raise as much money as they can for The London Taxi Drivers Charity for Children and the Tanzanian Children’s Community Project.

Daren, continued, “We have all completed the Knowledge, recognised as one of the toughest tests in the world and we won’t give up. Testament to this determination is Sarah Tobias, one of our team, who has had this wretched virus but with the aid of a newly prescribed inhaler pump, still intends to be with us at the foot of the mountain to fulfil her dream.

Sarah, from Bethnal Green has been a London cabbie for fourteen years. She has always loved the great outdoors and preparations had been going very well, having just completed a training walk with the other cabbies in the Peak District, immediately before lockdown in March, when she began to feel ill.

Sarah said, “Having COVID-19 was terrible. I was at home isolating and felt really ill. My

“Every day we would learn on the TV about the increasing number of deaths and it got to the stage where I was frightened to go to sleep but too tired to stay awake.”



breathing was really affected, and I was terrified when I couldn’t breathe properly. Every day we would learn on the TV about the increasing number of deaths and it got to the stage where I was frightened to go to sleep but too tired to stay awake. There are even a few days from that time that I can’t remember at all. It was a very scary experience.”

Sarah continued, “Having the COVID virus has been a huge set back to my training, but it has not dented my determination to succeed. I will be joining the other

cabbies in Tanzania next year and will do all I can to summit. Nothing is going to stop me, and I will keep going back to the doctor until we can find a treatment that will make me feel more normal. The London Taxi Driver’s Charity for Children does amazing work with special needs and disadvantaged children and I hope we smash our fundraising target.”

Sarah has just started taking the cab out again. She says it is still very quiet in London, but she hopes that things will soon bounce back.

www.ltcfc.org.uk

TAXI

About Cabbies do Kilimanjaro

After successfully raising £18,000 for The Taxi Charity for Military Veterans in 2019 by losing weight, getting fit and climbing Kilimanjaro, two of the original Cabbies Do Kilimanjaro, Daren Parr and John Dillane, put together a much bigger challenge for 2020. Fifteen London Cabbies will fly to Tanzania where Daren and John will climb 4,562 metre Mount Meru before joining the rest of the cabbies to climb 5,895 metres to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

The Cabbies do Kilimanjaro team of fifteen is hoping to raise £7,500 for the London Taxi Drivers’ Charity for Children and £2,500 for a children’s community project in Tanzania

Follow their progress by visiting www.cabbiesdokilimanjaro.com

To donate visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/cabbiesdokilimanjaro



About London Taxi Drivers’ Charity for Children

The London Taxi Driver’s Charity for Children arranges days out in the UK, for special needs and disadvantaged children and provides funding to support children who need recreational, technology and mobility equipment.

Founded in 1928, the charity is funded totally through donations and supported by an amazing group of volunteer London Taxi Drivers who give up their time to take the children and their carers on day trips.

Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall is Patron.

