

PRESS RELEASE

Volcano trekkers stopped in tracks by Etna

Friday 10 June, 2011

A team of adventurous volcano trekkers, including **XXXXX of XXXXX**, were stopped in their tracks when Mount Etna interrupted their plans to scale to the summit of three Italian volcanoes to raise funds for Cornwall Hospice Care.

The group of eleven were successful in reaching the summit of both Mount Vesuvius and Stromboli, but due to recent eruptions from Etna on the island of Sicily, plans had to be changed and the charity challengers took an alternative route making tracks across previous lava flows in some difficult weather conditions.

“Reaching the summits of Vesuvius and Stromboli gave the group a great feeling of achievement, especially when reaching Stromboli at dusk to witness the smoking vents and then lava exploding right in front of our eyes!”, said Karen Holman, Fundraising Team Leader.

“It was a real disappointment that we were unable to reach the summit of Mt Etna, but it is always safety first on our charity challenges and as the road was blocked and the weather was terrible, the decision had to be made to take an alternative route,” she added.

The participants of the Trek Three Volcanoes Challenge have spent the past year raising funds for Cornwall Hospice Care and training for the physical element of the challenge. The total raised so far is just over £29,000 which will support the work of the charity at its two hospices, Mount Edgumbe in St Austell and St Julia’s in Hayle.

“Charity challenges such as this have made a real significant contribution to the provision of adult hospice care in Cornwall. The commitment given by the participants is not only financial, as they also raise awareness across the county of the specialist services we provide,” said Paul Brinsley, Chief Executive of Cornwall Hospice Care.

The charity is running further overseas challenges, Trek The Great Wall of China from 1st – 9th October, Trek Peru and Make a Difference from 12th – 21st May 2012 and Everest Base Camp from 10th to 24th November 2012. Anyone interested in taking part in a charity challenge for Cornwall Hospice Care is asked to contact Amy Barnie on 01726 66868 or abarnie@cornwallhospice.co.uk.

ENDS

Photographed are the team at the top of Stromboli during the Trek Three Volcanoes Challenge. For further information please contact **Karen Holman on 01726 66868 or kholman@cornwallhospice.co.uk**.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Cornwall Hospice Care, which incorporates Mount Edgumbe Hospice in St Austell and St Julia’s Hospice in Hayle, provides Specialist Palliative Care to the people of Cornwall living with life limiting

illnesses and their loved ones. With limited funding from government sources the charity relies heavily on the support of the local community.