

Well done Elliot! Three-year-old with cerebral palsy completes 'Killer Mile' to raise cash for charity

Hundreds turned out for the popular event in Mow Cop

Young cerebral palsy sufferer Elliot Coates received the biggest cheer of the night after passing over the finishing line at [Mow Cop's](#) notorious Killer Mile.

The grinning three-year-old was joined by his parents and sister as the family look to raise funds for the charity which has given him a new lease of life.

Elliot, of Scholar Green, used a small powered wheelchair supplied by charity Designability as he is unable to walk without support.

And he was joined by hundreds of youngsters, fund-raisers and club runners as the annual event – which goes over a 25 per cent gradient – once again proved a big hit.



Elliot Coates received plenty of cheers as he completed the Killer Mile

The youngster's parents Phil and Leanna admit they were buoyed by the support they received as the family, including his eight-year-old sister, Alycia, took on the entire challenge.

And so far the effort has helped raise at least £260 for Designability who supplied the 'Wizzybug' Elliot, who attends Brereton Pre-School, completed the race in.

Leanna, aged 39, said: "Elliot can't walk or stand on his own and the Wizzybug has helped him so much. He's got a walking frame but he can't go that far on it.

"We wanted to raise money for the charity to support them and Elliot has loved taking part."

Dad Phil, aged 49, said: "It's really important for us that he's a part of the community and for him to feel involved.

"Cerebral palsy can affect children in different ways, for Elliot there is no muscle growth in his legs.

"The charity is reliant on donations and we want to help them. The Wizzybug has given him a real lease of life."

Thursday night's instalment saw hundreds take part with races broken up into categories for under 11s, a club runners, and a 'fun run'.



Scores of youngsters took part in the under 11s race

A number of children from Mow Cop's Woodcock's Well Primary School took part. Headteacher Julie Massen said: "It's all they have been talking about!"

“It’s a wonderful way to get the community together and there has been a real drive to make sure this event happens.”

Last year organisers had cancelled the run in April citing a lack of funds and volunteers. But Odd Rode Parish Council, Mow Cop Runners, Kidsgrove Rotary and other community groups stepped in to take it on.

Residents who took part on Thursday say they were pleased to see it take place once again.

Eddie Kerr, of Mow Cop, who works as a teacher, helped five local children complete the race. Eddie, a DJ at the Sugarmill, said: “I have never done it before and it was a brilliant experience. It’s nice to see so many people take part.”



A number of club runners were out in force

Father-of-three George Schirmer completed it with sons Oscar, aged four and seven-year-old Sebastian. George, aged 36, of [Alsager](#) , said: “It’s such a legendary event that we wanted to have a go and it’s been a really good experience

The Killer Mile first came about following the running boom in the 1970s with the first event said to have taken place in April 1982.

A number of keen runners turned out on Thursday. Among them was Congleton Harriers member Robert Soames. Robert of [Congleton](#) , said: “I have done it six times before and finished in 12 minutes this time. It’s great to see so many people taking part.”