



» Olie (left) and Tarran in the Andes on their adventures

AMAZONIAN ADVENTURE

Olie Hunter Smart from Sandbanks has become the first Briton to travel the entire length of the River Amazon fully unsupported. He completed the feat with companion Tarran Kent-Hume. The intrepid pair began their journey at the river's most distant source in the Peruvian Andes and walked more than 400 miles before kayaking the remaining 3,600 miles across South America to where

the Amazon meets the Atlantic Ocean in Brazil. The duo raised money for two charities, the Duchenne Children's Trust and Limited Resource Teacher Training (LRTT). The former is devoted to children and young adults with Duchenne muscular dystrophy while the latter was chosen because it was launching its first teacher training course in Georgetown, Guyana in South America. 'Children with Duchenne experience the same type of struggles we faced every single day of their lives,' says Olie, adding that they also wanted to provide support to get LRTT's first project off the ground. Among the challenges faced along the way were the threat of pirates, high winds and mountainous seas and the boys had close encounters with jaguars and crocodiles. They spent 38 days walking and 93 days paddling. Olie, who works in advertising, enjoys returning to Sandbanks between adventures and says he wants his next project to be UK-based: 'There are so many incredible places right on our doorstep and I think they often go unnoticed.'



» Richard Bromley Gardner's highly commended butterfly image

WINNING WILDLIFE IMAGES

A video of a seahorse filmed in Studland Bay has won the Wildlife in HD category of the British Wildlife Photography Awards (BWPA), which are exhibited at Moors Valley Country Park until 28 February. Shot by Andy Jackson and narrated by Jackie Daly, *The Last Seahorse in Studland?* originally set out to show the lifecycle of seahorses off the Dorset coast but turned into a plea to help the species after only one seahorse was sighted. 'They are so iconic and I have always wanted to film them,' says Andy who was pleased to report the sighting of two seahorses and one of them a pregnant male on a more recent trip. Meanwhile, the Dorset coast also features in the highly commended habitat category of the awards with an image of a Large White butterfly fluttering over the cliffs above St Oswald's Bay between Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door. Photographer Richard Bromley Gardner noticed the butterfly battling hard against the wind to reach some flowers. 'I watched it for a while, flying haphazardly while the tourist boats cut straight lines through the water below and tried to capture a video of it on my phone but the battery died,' he says, explaining that initially he felt it would be too difficult to capture it as a still image. 'But I thought that if I could, then it might be a cool shot.' The BWPA awards attract thousands of entries every year and Moors Valley is one of a handful of locations to host the national touring exhibition.

RECYCLED ARTWORK

Artwork produced by a Bridport schoolgirl has helped to celebrate the opening of a new waste management centre in the town. Nine-year-old Eva Harp, from St Mary's Primary School, won a competition run by the Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) to create a piece of art to welcome visitors to the recycling facility at Broomhills. Her artwork,



» Eva with her winning artwork

which urges householders to recycle more and 'keep the world very clean and green', was chosen from 70 entries from local children by Bridport artist Flora Jamieson. As part of the competition, Flora visited local schools to run arts workshops for children using recycled materials. 'The brilliant standard of entries showed how passionate children are about protecting our planet and made picking a winner very hard,' she says. 'Eva's drawing stood out as it combines a positive message about recycling with some bold and beautiful images.' Eva was invited to cut the ribbon with the Mayor of Bridport and unveil her mural at the official opening ceremony of the centre.



» Eva cuts the ribbon at the opening of Bridport's new recycling centre

Richard Budd