

Coast to coast

BRIAN DANIEL

IT was one of the toughest physical challenges that Ivan Hollingsworth has ever undertaken.

But as the former professional athlete ran along Longsands beach in Tynemouth yesterday, it marked the end of a gruelling Coast to Coast challenge to raise cash for the hospital that saved his son's life.

For the fourth consecutive year, the 38-year-old has pushed himself to the limit as he led a brave group on an epic adventure, dubbed C2C4.

Over four days the heroic team cycled 140 miles, ran 61 miles and swam one mile as they travelled from Whitehaven in Cumbria to Tynemouth in North Tyneside.

A hardcore team of eight did all four days, with Ivan and more than 40 others taking part in sections of the journey, including his wife Nadine, 35, who ran the final stage to Tynemouth.

Dad-of-one Ivan, of Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, said: "This is the fourth year we have done this event, it has definitely been the hardest.

"I have found it really emotional, not just because

of what we have went through. "People have put their bodies into it."

The C2C4 challenge has been in aid of the Children's Heart Unit Fund (CHUF), a charity that Ivan is proudly a trustee of.

The inspiration for the challenge has been his son Seb, four, who was diagnosed with the heart condition tetralogy of fallot hours after being born.

Ivan, a pharmaceutical rep, and business manager Nadine, anxiously waited as doctors at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital's children's heart unit carried out surgery when Seb was just 16 weeks old.

LEADER Ivan Hollingsworth with son Seb and wife Nadine



As the youngster recovered from the operation the couple decided to set up a fund - Seb4chuf - focused entirely on raising money for the life-saving heart unit.

Throughout the years, daredevil Ivan has done a variety of fundraising events, and to date Seb4chuf has raised more than £310,000 for a state-of-the-art play facility.

The money will be put towards building a playroom and outside play area at the Freeman Hospital's children's heart unit for poorly children to enjoy and relax with their family.

It is expected that the hospital play facility will be completed by autumn this year.

In the past, Ivan has skied down a mountain in a mankini, run 100 miles in less than 24 hours and run countless marathons and half marathons for good causes.

hard way for CHUF



JOURNEY'S END Ivan Hollingsworth and the team cool down

Pictures: Tim McGuinness www.chroniclive.co.uk/buyphoto ref: 00930605

Pupils get arty for house project

SCHOOLCHILDREN were given the chance to design their ideal country home as part of a community project.

Leazes Homes and Keepmoat's Town House / Country House project aimed to give schoolchildren at Hadrian School in Fenham, Newcastle, greater involvement in the construction of a new housing development and show them the differences between town and country homes.

As part of the two day project the children were shown around Westside Park wearing hard hats to see the construction process first-hand.

They also had the opportunity to put their lessons into practice and build their own section of wall.

As part of the project the children came up with their own room ideas for designing a castle in the country. Ideas included fantastical concepts such as dedicated rooms for chocolate, sparkles and - in order to stay healthy - vegetables. The project was hailed a success by teachers.

SUPPORT Evan Thomas, among those who collected for CHUF

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