

## Taunton Marathon and Half Marathon 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012

1,280 took part in the half marathon and around 250 others, as well as me, took on the challenge of the full marathon in Taunton on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Hundreds also took part in the fun run – including my daughter Amy.

Full sunshine and soaring temperatures tested us runners to the limit of our endurance during the run which started off at 10.30 quite chilly but over the next hour the temperature had soared and some stripping off was needed! There were a good number of water stations and sponges on the route which initially went through Taunton Town centre then made its way out into the gently undulating country side and back along the A38 to Taunton (there was a pavement to run on). It was a one or two lap race depending on your distance with plenty of marshalls. There were only a couple of short sharp hills at about mile 8 and 12 so quite manageable. The 2<sup>nd</sup> lap running through the Town Centre after it was opened up to traffic was a bit hair- raising and lonely out on the route but that's a marathon for you I suppose.

The start and finish was at the Technical College in Wellington Road which was a good base for the event with some parking, lots of toilets and changing etc. Also there was some entertainment for the kids with a bouncy castle and various stalls. A sound system provided a great atmosphere calling out everyone's names as you finished.

The race organisation was pretty good with your race number and chip being sent with instructions on parking etc about a month before the event. No entries on the day though. Overall I would recommend the event if you would like a flatter route to try for a PB.

Sara Crane