

MEDIA INFORMATION



Pilgrim Bandits take Forces amputees to Dubai skydiving

No-sympathy forces charity Pilgrim Bandits, based in New Milton, Hants, has just returned from taking a group of forces amputees to Dubai skydiving. The charity www.pilgrimbandits.org raises money through demanding physical

Figure 1. Lance Bombardier Ben Parkinson. Ben was blown up by an anti-tank mine in Afghanistan in 2006. He lost both legs and sustained a catalogue of injuries including brain damage.



challenges to take injured servicemen and women on arduous adventures designed to push them to their physical and mental limits.

Founder of the Pilgrim Bandits, says “Too often these boys return from the front line with horrendous injuries. They are fixed-up physically and then sent home but to what? Pilgrim Bandits was set up to provide an

outlet for the drive and tenacity that has been trained into these men and women. Through their own endeavours they raise money for the charity and at the same time increase awareness of the broader issues.”

Pilgrim Bandits took three amputees; Lance Bombardier, Ben Parkinson pictured above, Rifleman Jake Bartlett, and Devon and Dorset Veteran



Matthew Southwood to Skydive Dubai where, as guests of Crown Prince Hamdan, they skydived over the Palm and World Islands strapped to a buddy from 13,000 ft.

“It was a wonderful chance for these guys to jump in such a stunning and

warm environment. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum at Sky Dive Dubai and British General Consul Guy Warrington. Our thanks also go to James Walters at www.expatholidays.com who invited us to the England v Pakistan test match as corporate guests the day before. Banoffee cakes were also dropped at the drop-zone courtesy of our friends at www.facebook.com/BanoffeeBites thanks for the sugar rush! We have been invited to return as guests again, so if anyone knows any amputee servicemen or women who may enjoy the chance to take part please get in touch."



Left: Rifleman Jake Bartlett, Mike Pilgrims, L/Bdr Ben Parkinson and Andy Ford Skydive Dubai

Pilgrim Bandits Charity No 1136166

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