

## ESCAPE FROM THE COLD

It was a bitter cold Sunday morning in the town of Reigate, a thick blanket of pure white snow had fallen overnight and sharp icicles hung like vicious fangs from gutters and rooftops. The Robinsons forced themselves out of bed, reluctantly leaving the warm embrace of their duvets. It was only two weeks until they were due to compete in the Holly Run and they were determined to finish off their training regime regardless of the spiteful cold weather. They quickly changed into their running outfit, taking care to add hats and gloves to keep the cold at bay.

The Robinsons lived in an apartment near the historic Reigate Castle grounds. They pulled their front door shut behind them and darted off into the cold. As they made their way through the ruins of the old castle they looked like a pair of ferocious dragons as their warm breath appeared in front of them with every exhale.

Next, they made their way into the St Mary's Churchyard, with the icy snow crunching under their feet. The frost glistened on the tombstones where previous generations of Reigate citizens lay in eternal rest. Suddenly, the morning silence was broken by the crisp chimes of the St Mary's church bells signalling it was time for the early service. As the worshippers made their way to church in their warm winter clothes, the Robinsons made swift progress to Reigate Priory park.

They entered the park and passed the sunken gardens in front of the characterful Reigate Priory school buildings which were bursting with history. Originally built as a monastery, the manor and priory of Reigate had been granted to the Howard family by none other than Henry VIII. The stunning buildings looked timeless against the snowy white backdrop.

As they made their way towards the far end of the park, the Robinsons' attention was drawn to the sound of a yelping dog and its terrified owner pleading for help. As they drew nearer they spotted the desperate dog which had fallen into the pond having ventured onto the thin ice which had clearly cracked and given way beneath its weight.

"Someone help me! My dog fell into the freezing pond and can not get out!" pleaded the owner.

Mrs Robinson scoured the area and spotted a long thick branch that was laying by the edge of the pond. With great urgency, she grabbed the branch and ran over towards the dog offering the stick as a lifeline. With great relief, the dog clamped its strong jaws around the branch and gratefully allowed Mrs Robinson to pull it to safety.

"Thank you so much for saving my Coco, I don't know what I would have done without you." exclaimed the grateful owner. Mr Robinson took off his running jacket and wrapped the shivering Coco in the makeshift blanket.

"The poor thing is frozen, let's get her somewhere warm quickly." suggested Mr Robinson. The dog's owner and the two newfound heroes dashed to the cafe in the middle of Priory park. As they pushed open the glass doors they were met with the welcome blast of warm air. Mr Robinson spoke with a helpful waitress who kindly gave them some tea towels to dry and warm Coco. Meanwhile, Mrs Robinson appeared with several cups of steaming hot chocolate which they used to toast Coco's rescue.

After they said their goodbyes to the eternally grateful owner, the Robinsons resumed their training run by heading past the pond where they had acted without hesitation to rescue the stranded dog. They turned right along Park Lane and headed through the cluster of sports clubs including Old Reigatian Rugby Club, Reigate Priory Football Club, Reigate Priory Cricket Club and Reigate Priory Lawn Tennis club, where sport had been played and enjoyed for more than a hundred years.

They turned along the high street passing a wide variety of shops, cafes and restaurants, where a number of people were braving the piercing cold weather to do their Christmas shopping. The Robinsons turned left and headed past the memorable Reigate caves which had taken their breath away during a recent visit.

Their adventurous run came to an end as they returned to their apartment in the Reigate castle grounds where a piping hot shower awaited them.