



Our Charles raises nearly £1,500 by walking 80 miles to mark 80 years!

## Description



Nearly £1,500 will help boost our residents' wellbeing – thanks to retired Methodist minister Revd Charles New, who's just completed an 80-mile walk to mark his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

He finished his final lap on 16 September – despite having two artificial knees, shifting a stubborn horse and dodging hordes of hoodie-clad mature ramblers. And donations have still been coming in, long after Charles' walk.

‘There’s life in the old dog yet!’

Charles managed his ‘80-4-80’ peninsula pilgrimage across The Wirral by covering ten miles a day in eight days. He hiked on [The Wirral Way](#) – a disused railway track past stunning locations like an atmospheric old train station and sweeping views across the River Dee to the Welsh hills. A horse blocked his path and he had to gently push the animal aside!

As a spin-off to his birthday celebration, [he launched a fundraising page on the web](#). Family, friends and anonymous supporters sent donations ranging from £10 to £100. Givers added such heartfelt and humorous messages as – ‘A legend indeed’ and ‘There’s life in the old dog yet’.

Supporters’ gifts will go towards the Wellbeing Fund of the Society, of which Charles is a board member and resident. He said he is ‘very grateful’ to all those who gave donations.

As well as celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday – which was earlier, on 29 August – Charles’ quest also marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. Entering Methodist ministry took him to extremes – from working on a grey and gritty housing estate in England to the sun-bleached shores of the Bahamas.

He is no stranger to walking, having completed the famous ‘[Coast To Coast](#)’ challenge and the long Welsh wander from Barmouth to the Gower Peninsula – both around 200 miles long. ‘My wife Doreen and I try to go out every day for a two-mile walk to buy the paper,’ he said.

‘It’s one of the wonders of modern medicine that I can do this walk’

Charles’ knees were replaced more than five years ago with titanium implants after playing football as a youth often left him in pain. ‘I’ve often struggled with my knees,’ he said. ‘So it’s one of the wonders of modern medicine that I can do this walk.’

Will Charles go for 90 miles on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday? ‘Doreen will be pushing me in my wheelchair,’ he joked. As gifts are still coming in for Charles’ walk, [his personal fundraising page](#) will remain open for a while longer.

The Society’s Wellbeing Fund provides support in the areas of mobility and independence, offering a range of assistance from remote control window openers to robotic lawnmowers. (Pics: [Rachel Beekman Photography](#))



## Category

1. News & reviews

## Date Created

04/10/2021

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