



A soggy start to the World Aid Walk in 2006.

(Picture by Adrian Miller, 0302426)

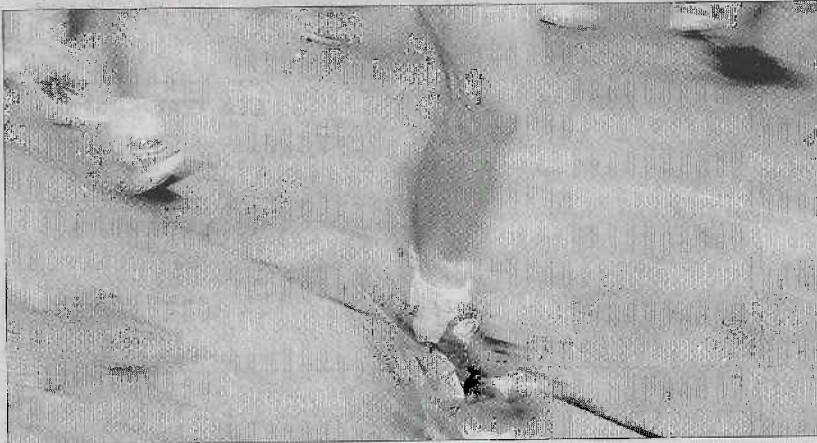


At the starting line in 1988.

(0901973)



And they're off. Participants in the inaugural World Aid Walk set off from the Market Halls.



Those taking part in the walk are advised to wear suitable shoes. See the panel on the right for tips on making the walk safe and enjoyable. (0090034)



Participants gather at the start of last year's World Aid Walk.

(Picture by Adrian Miller, 0766831)

It's possibly the island's biggest charity event. The World Aid Walk celebrates its 40th year. Being held in 2017, it takes place, **Shaun Shackleton** steps into the shoes of Peter Lane, who it all began - and how the hundreds who take part walk thousands around the world.

IT ALL started on a blustery Easter Monday in 1971. Gathered outside the Market Halls, between 9 and 10am, with just a sole policeman on duty to stop the traffic going up and down Fountain Street, 400 men, women, boys and girls from youth clubs, schools and church organisations set off on a 20 mile trek through the island's parishes. First stop was St Martin's Parish Hall. The crowds then snaked on to St Andrew's and the Forest Primary Schools and continued to Torveval. The route wound its way through St Peter's, St Saviour's, Castel, Vale, St Sampson's and finally back to Town. Refreshments were provided at a number of checkpoints along the way and for those who couldn't make the full 20 miles - and who could blame them? - there was the opportunity to pull out at any of the points. Initiated by local teacher Ken Wild and friend Roy Banniers as a way of teaching children social responsibility through positive action, this was the first-ever World Aid Walk. The story in the Guernsey Press said that the aim was to raise money to go towards helping some of the 2,500 million people throughout the world who are suffering from poverty, disease and malnutrition'. It was calculated that just 2p could pay for at least one of those people's daily meals.

Fast forward 40 years and times have changed. It might not be held on Easter Monday any more and those 20 miles have now been reduced to a shorter, more European and blister-friendly 20km. But each year, from those humble beginnings in 1971, it has gone from

strength to strength and so far more than £750,000 has been raised for charities such as ActionAid, Oxfam Save the Children, Christian Aid and The Tumaini Fund. And on Monday 3 May this year, the World Aid Walk - which is being sponsored for the 10th year by Ipses celebrates its 40th year. Someone who was there from the early days was Jim Lawlor. 'I became involved in 1972 through Save the Children. In those days there were three charities that benefited - Save the Children, Oxfam and Christian Aid,' he said. 'The actual walk was smaller-scale. In 1973, Peter Lane became the chairman and there was a new committee made up of a lot of school teachers, which was good because I was based on education. 'I stayed so long that Peter retired and I look over from him.' Jim, who is now 82, said that there was always a great atmosphere at the beginning of the walk. 'We'd break up the jobs into different categories. At the starting point, on the steps there of the markets, we'd have 600-plus people waiting to set off. 'There would be 10 checkpoints, one in every parish, where they could stop for a rest and a cup of tea, and there were travelling marshals who would pick up people who wanted to stop walking and drive them back to Town.'



Even Benson the dog. (Picture by J...)



on Easter Monday, 1971.

(0846076)



Walkers crossing Fountain Street from the start of the World Aid Walk in 1990.

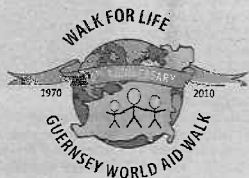
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World Aid Walk 2007 gets under way from the Town Church.

(Picture by Peter Frankland, 0435024)

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'We were always keen on the safety side, the road-crossing especially.' Nowadays, people can download and print off an entry form from their computers; in those days it was the 'Oxfam ladies'. 'They took all the forms to the schools. The children would then complete them and hand them in on the day, together with the money they had collected. We had a counting house upstairs in the market.'

girl but she eventually turned up - with her boyfriend.' Jim's good friend, Jurat Lane, 75, was also an early supporter of the walk. 'I was chairman from 1973 to 77,' he said. 'I originally got involved because I was in Christian Aid.'

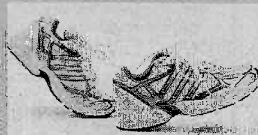
This year it is hoped that £40,000 will be raised. But large sums are nothing new. Peter dug out a Press cutting that he had saved from years ago. 'This shows how successful it has always been. The collection in 1978 was divided between the three charities, Christian Aid, Oxfam and Save the Children. There were three cheques for £1,350 each.' As the headmaster of St Peter Port School from 1980 to 1995, he was proud that so many schoolchildren took part in the walk. But like his friend Jim Lawlor, Peter never had the opportunity to partake himself. 'I was always too busy. But since this is the 40th, I'm going to walk it for the first time. I'll give it a go.' I asked if he'd done any training. 'No I haven't,' he laughed. 'But I'll take my mobile phone and call my wife if I need picking up.'

To celebrate the 40th World Aid Walk, organisers are asking people who have entered before to think back over their memories of the event and share their stories - and perhaps photos or other memorabilia that could be used to tell the bigger story of its history. Send your memories to info@worldaidwalk.org.gg or call Candice McGeoch on 735847.

● If you want to take part in this year's walk, for details on sponsorship, donations and to download an entry form, visit www.worldaidwalk.org.gg.

Walk the walk - safely

Hundreds of people will be taking part in the 40th World Aid Walk, including Lt-Governor Sir Fabian Malbon. To make it a safe and enjoyable experience, follow these essential tips...



● Wear comfortable shoes. It's a long walk and wearing a pair of uncomfortable shoes will cause you many problems.

● Dress appropriately for both the weather and the event. If it's raining, make sure you bring a waterproof and if it's sunny, make sure you are suitably prepared.

● While water will be available at checkpoints, make sure you bring enough food and drink for your personal requirements.

● The route. Know it and become familiar with it before you set off on the walk. You'll find a route map in your information pack.

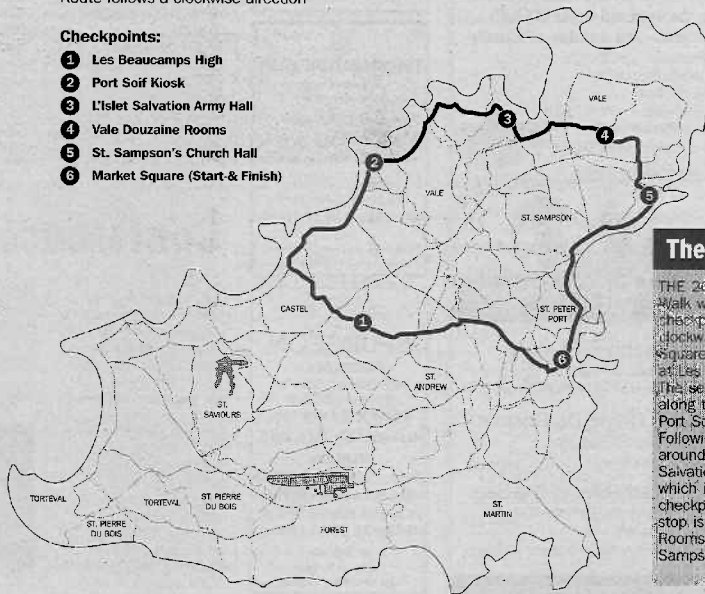
● Be safe and sensible. There will be marshals at a number of stops and crossings during the walk. However, you still need to be aware of what's happening around you and the traffic on the roads. The organisers discourage running, as the event is a walk.

World Aid Walk Route Map 2010

Route follows a clockwise direction

Checkpoints:

- 1 Les Beaucamps High
- 2 Port Soif Kiosk
- 3 L'Islet Salvation Army Hall
- 4 Vale Douzaine Rooms
- 5 St. Sampson's Church Hall
- 6 Market Square (Start & Finish)



The route

THE 2010 World Aid Walk will have five checkpoints. Setting off clockwise from Market Square, the first will be at Les Beaucamps High. The second will be along the west coast at Port Soif Kiosk. Following the road around to L'Islet Salvation Army Hall, which is the third checkpoint, the next stop is Vale Douzaine Rooms and then St. Sampson's Church Hall.

Although he cannot recall any major problems during his time as chairman, two incidents spring to mind. 'One year it snowed on Good Friday. There were a lot of phone calls and excitement about reorganising. But like any snow in Guernsey, it had gone by the Monday.' Another time, a mother was left waiting for her teenage daughter at the end of the race. 'Usually we had around a dozen people who would simply retire and go home. The forms had their phone numbers on them and we would telephone them and hope that a friendly voice at the other end would say, "Yes, we've retired". We were getting worried about the

earns a medal. O'Neill, 13591801)