

# Andy Byng prepares for mammoth task to raise funds for WaterAid



Andy Byng, chairman of the SNU's Spirit of Youth, is planning a mammoth task that most of us wouldn't even think of attempting. On behalf of more than a billion people who can't perform the simple act of turning on a tap and having a drink of water, he's going to walk 500 miles. If you believe a drink of water is a fundamental human right, read what Andy has to say...

Today, a staggering 1.1 billion people have no access to clean, safe drinking water, and 2.4 billion people are without appropriate sanitation. Today in Africa, millions of people have walked an average eight-mile round-trip just to get water. How, in the twenty-first century, can anybody justify this situation? Of course, the reasons for the current state of affairs are complex, but in my view not justifiable. However, that's not the reason for this article.

Many of you will be well aware that the Spiritualists' National Union has launched a campaign – *Spiritualists believe in a thirst for life* – to highlight the work of Water Aid, a fantastic charity that provides clean water, sanitation and health education to countries around the world.

To help raise money for this campaign, I have agreed to walk 500 miles in August this year. I will be walking the famous Camino de Santiago (pictured), which is a 500-mile trail that starts in the South of France at St Jean Pied de Port, and ends in the North of Spain, in the holy city of Santiago de Compostela.

Spain is hot in mid-August and as anybody who knows me will testify, I break a sweat just trying to touch my toes! But fear not, I have already stopped smoking in readiness. I am three weeks in and it is killing me, ironic as that may sound. I have joined the gym: donning a pair of joggers, a T-shirt, a pair of trainers and an excessive amount of sweat bands. Basically, I look like I've stepped out of a 118 advert – I am hitting the treadmill and trying to get in tip-top shape for this most gruelling of challenges. I have also paid for the tickets to the South of France, the accommodation and food costs out of my own pocket, so that any money I raise will go straight to this extremely important cause.

So, why am I writing? Yes, you've guessed it: money, dough, a few bob – whatever you want to call it. But I do not ask for this lightly. This campaign will change lives, and a little will go a very long way. Just £10 could pay for materials

## WaterAid

to help build a latrine; £12 could buy two taps for a village water-point; £20 could pay to train a pump attendant; and £30 could pay for a family toilet. Think of that – just £30 for a toilet that we

in the UK take as an absolute right in our lives. Do you ever question the fact that you've got a toilet? I know I don't. It's basic – a fact of life.

It's just after Christmas, and everybody is feeling the pinch of the recession, but we are talking about giving people the basic necessities of life. If every single person who reads this sends just £1, it would seriously change lives. And what would you get for your £1?

Well, apart from the satisfaction of contributing to an obviously worthwhile cause, if the readers of PN can club

together £1,000 towards this campaign then I will publish a series of embarrassing workout photographs of the sort you have never seen before, (and probably would never want to see again!). In fact, for every £1,000 that the wonderful readers of PN raise, I will happily do something ridiculous: wax my body hair, shave my head, walk



down Oxford Street as an Oompa Loompa, whatever you like, and PN will report on it. The only exception being that I will not stop contributing to PN (I know you thought it!).

In all seriousness, I think this is an amazing charity and a fantastic campaign, and I will do everything in my power to make a difference – I just need your support.

If you would like to help, then I sincerely ask you to send in a donation. Be sure to put "Andy Byng, PN Reader" either on the back of the cheque, or in the comments box if you plan to make an online donation. As soon as you reach those £1,000 milestone, I will gladly do your forfeits. Send your ideas into *Psychic News*, and I am sure the editor and staff will pick out the most humiliating ones! Send them to Andy Byng WaterAid Appeal, Suite 6, Thremhall Park, Start Hill, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM22 7WE.

**Please send your kind donations to one of the following: SNU WaterAid Appeal, 26 Glebe Close, Worksop, S80 3QX (please make cheques payable to 'SNU').**

**Online: [www.justgiving.com/AndyByng](http://www.justgiving.com/AndyByng) (donations go directly to the charity).**