

# Real Life

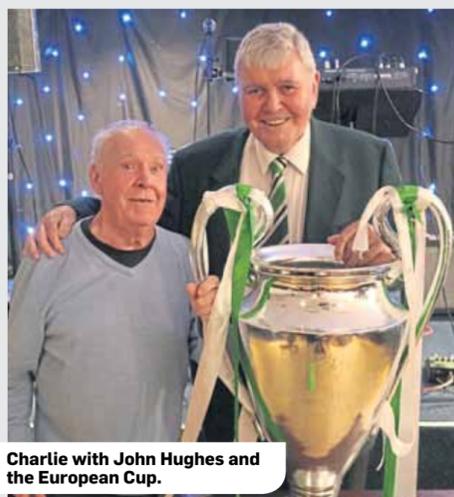
YOUR OWN STORIES

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

ahall@dctmedia.co.uk 01382 575209

## TEAM OF 16 STEPS OUT IN HONOUR

Family and friends fulfil Steven's Kiltwalk wish



Charlie with John Hughes and the European Cup.

### 80TH BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

Party brings together school pals, family – and the European Cup!

LOCHEE lad Charlie Walker has turned 80 – and it was marked with a bang. His family couldn't see the milestone pass without a celebration, so brother Andy and daughter Annie set out to organise a surprise party at the Dee Club. Andy said: "My niece phoned me and told me that she was wanting to host a surprise party for her dad's birthday. "She tasked me with getting all his friends together. "I managed to get his pals from as far back as 1949 in Fintry, to his first friend from Ancrum Road Primary School. "In all we managed to get 144 family and friends together. "When he came into the club and the lights turned on and everyone was singing Happy Birthday he was absolutely gobsmacked – for the first time in years. "Usually Charlie always has a funny comment but not that night. "He was just so shocked that it was all for him." As if those 144 people weren't enough, one of Charlie's footballing

heroes, former Celtic star John Hughes, also made a special appearance – bringing with him the European Cup won by the club in 1967. Andy added: "I have been mates with big John for years and got to know him very well. "When I asked him if he fancied a night with a difference he said 'oh that sounds amazing'. "No one knew that John was coming except myself and my two sons. "I didn't even tell Annie. "The night was just a fantastic celebration with music and good company. "It was like a big family reunion with relatives that we haven't seen in 50 years even coming along. "Charlie has had some life and he is totally loved in Lochee. "He has such a big heart and is always wanting to help others. "For his birthday Charlie also decided that he just wanted a collection of money that can be donated to a charity. "We would all like to say a massive thank you to everyone who came along and also to the amazing staff at the Dee Club."

### FAMILY and friends raised more than £4,600 for Cancer Research UK in memory of much loved dad and grandad Steven McDonald.

Steven was just 51 when he lost his battle with prostate cancer on February 23. Just weeks before his death he was enjoying a walk with brother Andy when Steven suggested that the pair take on the Kiltwalk in August. Andy, director at M&M Plumbing and Heating Supplies, said: "Steven was just finishing his course of chemo in February and thought he was going to be here for another three years. "We were out walking in Forfar in January and he asked me if I would like to do the Dundee Kiltwalk with him to raise money for Cancer Research. "I have always been quite a keen walker but Steven was never really into it, so I was surprised when he suggested it. "I agreed and said I would look into getting both of us signed up. "Sadly, Steven died three weeks later. "It was a massive shock to the whole family, but we thought it was a no brainer to go on with the walk in memory of Steven to try to raise as much money as possible. "I then asked more family members and Steven's friends if they would like to join me on the walk. "Steven's children Kieran, 24, and Darryl, 21, also joined us along with my sister Debbie. "In total there were 16 of us who completed the 11-mile walk from Tayport to Monifieth. "The Kiltwalk was great fun and the weather was kind to us. "Steven was very much a part of the walk and we all kept saying



The team of 16 at Steven's bench. Right (from top): Andy and Steven; Kieran, Andy, Debbie and Darryl; Steven; and Andy and Kieran with the cheque for Cancer Research UK.

that we thought he was with us every step of the way. "We all met at Steven's memorial bench in Broughty Ferry where we had scattered his ashes. "We sat and shared memories, reminisced and took a moment to think about him. "We all had a dram as well, even though we weren't meant to." Andy is no stranger to fundraising, having already completed two Dundee half marathons for the same charity. Andy added: "I have lost quite a lot of family members to cancer

so it has always been a charity close to my heart. "I signed up in January to do the Dundee half marathon again in July, thinking my brother would be at the finish line to see me across the line but unfortunately he wasn't there. "The funds that we were raising by completing the Kiltwalk were always going to be for Cancer Research UK and through a complete team effort we all managed to raise a grand total of £4,645. "My customers, staff and suppliers at M&M Plumbing & Heating



Family and friends at the party.

## Choose Planet not Plastic.

Consider the environment with our refillable Eco Cleaning Products. We stock a full range of eco cleaning products for your home – from laundry to dishwashing. The Ecoleaf range is derived from plant extracts and based on biodegradable and non-hazardous ingredients, avoiding the harsh chemicals found in many brands. Ecoleaf products are made in the UK, bear the Vegan society logo and are animal cruelty free. **Choose Planet Not Plastic** - We can now offer a refill solution to re-use your plastic bottles. Visit our office showroom in Newport on Tay.



**The Natural Energy Company**  
The Natural Energy Company is more than a renewable installation company – our aim is to consider the environment in all that we do.

Visit our website to see our full range of services

9 Cupar Road Newport on Tay Fife DD6 8AF • t. 01382 543375  
e: info@thenaturalenergycompany.co.uk

www.thenaturalenergycompany.co.uk



### THE FABRIC MILL AT HALLEY STEVENSONS

## ONE DAY FACTORY

# SALE

Sunday the 4th of NOVEMBER | 11am-4pm  
Fabrics from £1 per metre!!!

Follow us online! @thefabricmilldundee

Baltic Works, 28 Annfield Road, Dundee DD1 5JH | 01382 908 097

www.thefabricmilldundee.co.uk

Open: Mon, Tue, Wed and Fri 10am-4pm; Thu 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-4pm; Sun 12noon-4pm.

SEE YOUR NIGHT OUT PICTURES IN FRIDAY'S TELE