

Comedian takes part in charity's walk

Arthur Smith to keep humour up on fundraising stroll

By Tom Cook

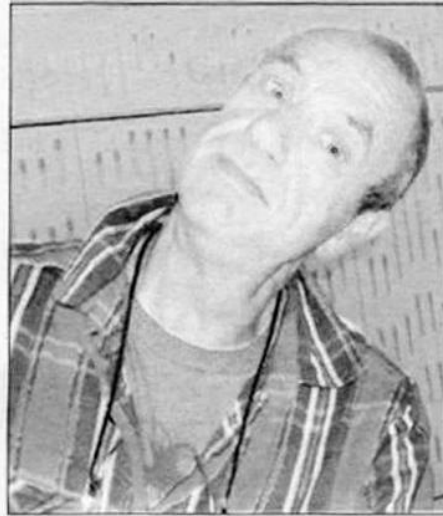
news@southwarknews.co.uk

COMEDIAN ARTHUR Smith will be giving poetry readings and telling jokes as part of a charity walk this weekend.

The comedian, a prominent presence on the alternative comedy circuit, as well on the hit BBC show *Grumpy Old Men*, will be taking part in the Walworth based charity CoolTanArts' Largactyl Shuffle to promote World Mental Health Day.

The walk will begin at Maudsley Hospital and end at the Tate Modern and involves varying forms of entertainment, as well as the chance to learn more about the history and social impact of the NHS since 1948. All money raised will go towards CoolTanArts, a charity which uses creative arts to provide support to adults with mental distress.

Arthur Smith, the patron of the walk, said: "Supporting CoolTan's sponsored walk is something I am pleased to do as I have had friends and family who have suffered clinical depression. I am very much



Arthur Smith

looking forward to the walk and to discovering more about Southwark, the area I grew up in."

At Camberwell Green, walkers will have a brief rest and the chance to watch the planting of a Japanese Gingko tree.

Seen by many as being highly spiritual, the tree is commonly believed to have strong medicinal properties. The impressive trees have been known to live over 2500 years.

The walk begins at 11:30am Saturday, October 15, at Maudsley Hospital, and will involve a gentle stroll, suitable for those with disabilities or wheelchairs. To participate, you will first need to register at www.cooltanarts.org.uk.