

# GERRY'S LUNG CLIMB..

## Transplant man to take on 4 peaks in tribute to donor

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**GERRY Walker will today climb Carrantuohill almost a year after he had a live-saving transplant.**

He suffers from cystic fibrosis and in July last year received a double-lung transplant that gave him a second chance at life.

The 47-year-old is now climbing four mountains to pay tribute to his donor.

He said: "I know nothing about the man who gave me his lungs except his name was Martin.

"I will put a rock at the top of each mountain with an inscription on each.

"The Irish rock will say 'Remember Martin, an unknown friend who donated his lungs, allowing me to climb Carrantuohill after a long exile'.

"It is an incredible challenge, I know it is. But I decided I wanted to give something back and allow Martin's name to go down in history - even if it is for something small.

"It is a total life-saving surgery and I was lucky I got the transplant and get the chance to honour Martin."



▲ **THANKS** Gerry Walker

Gerry, from Rathfarnham, Co Dublin, will climb the highest mountains in Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.

His 4Peaks4Life Challenge starts this weekend when Gerry scales Carrantuohill followed by

Snowdon on July 23, Ben Nevis on

July 25 and Scafell Pike on July 27.

The date holds double significance for Gerry - because he will be celebrating both his 20th wedding anniversary and the first anniversary of his transplant.

He said: "Before my transplant, I was using oxygen for more than 16 hours a day and exercise would make me completely breathless even with oxygen.

"The day I got the call to say I was getting a transplant, I was in Windermere celebrating my wedding anniversary.

"Although I was delighted to be on the list, I knew there was serious risks involved - there is an automatic 20 per cent on-the-table risk.

"After that, there is only a 50 per cent survival rate after 10 years. But after I got the operation, I had this amazing new lease of life.

"I spent four weeks in hospital and up until November, I was restricted in what I could do.

"But once I was given the all-clear, I knew



**CARRANTUOHILL**  
Gerry is to tackle Irish peak first



**SNOWDON**  
Next up is Wales' highest mountain



**BEN NEVIS**  
Gerry will then climb 1,300m peak



**SCAFELL PIKE**  
English giant last to be conquered

I wanted to do something different. And one of the reasons I am talking on this new challenge is to let people know that life-saving transplants can only happen if people donate organs."

For more information on how you can help Gerry or how you can donate to his cause, visit [www.4peaks4life.ie](http://www.4peaks4life.ie).