

He may be 67, but the professor isn't daunted by Dead Woman's Pass

TREKING across the Andes, along Dead Woman's Pass, is not what you would expect your average pensioner to be doing in their spare time.

But that is exactly what 67-year-old Prof Ray Dupree will be doing in aid of the Alzheimer's Society in three months time.

The semi-retired physicist, who works at Warwick University, lives in Russell Terrace in Leamington. He will be one of the oldest walkers in a group of 40 that will be tackling the Andes during the five-day trek. Ray will join the rest of his group in Peru on May 19.

Prof Dupree has personal reasons behind his choice of charity for the trip.

He said: "My late wife had Alzheimer's and the Alzheimer's Society were very helpful in the early stages. I like walking and it will raise money for the Alzheimer's Society. The money will help people who are suffering from Alzheimer's and their relatives."

The trek that will cover 40km throughout the mountain range is expected to be a gruelling experience.

Ray said: "It's walking 12 hours a day, at huge altitudes. People may suffer altitude sickness and we have been told that some may not be able to finish."

Day five of the trip is expected to be one of the most challenging parts of the expedition. The group of walkers, who will be led by experienced trekking guides, will be climbing from 2,700 metres, up to 4,270 metres in altitude, along Dead Woman's Pass.

In contrast Ray has been told that the first day should be relatively easy with only five hours of walking to do.

Prof Dupree has been training for the trek for the last three months with a walking and general fitness programme. He is also planning to take part in several days of walking in the Cotswolds so he can begin his hill training. The training walks will last eight hours and Ray will be completing them day after day in preparation for the five-day long expedition.

When asked what motivated him to start training for such long periods of time, he said: "I just got scared, it's going to be terrible if your not fit so you've got to get fit."

Prof Dupree is planning to raise £2,500 in sponsorship for the Alzheimer's Society. To sponsor his trip go to www.justgiving.com/raytrek

