

Amazon Heart / Ladies of Harley Ride for Breast Cancer



In 2004 twenty young breast cancer survivors challenged themselves to a 1,000 mile ride on Harley-Davidson motorcycles from San Diego to San Francisco, California. Along the way they formed life long friendships, gained support and strength in dealing with their breast cancer experience, and raised vital funds for and awareness of breast cancer issues.

This first ride expanded in 2005 to become a Global Relay with 1,000 mile rides in the United Kingdom, United States and Australia, involving 48 young breast cancer survivors from around the world. These motorcycle adventures, and other life affirming experiences, are organised by Amazon Heart, a not for profit global association of women living with breast cancer.

This year Harley Davidson and the Ladies of Harley (LOH) are hosting a four day relay the length of the UK in support of Amazon Heart UK Trust and IBC UK; a charity set up for women diagnosed with the rarest and most rapidly progressive form of the disease - Inflammatory Breast Cancer.

A core of riders each of whom have experienced breast cancer will be escorted on a 650 mile trip by eight chapters of the LOH - being passed like a baton from chapter to chapter. These women will ride from Oxford through Nottingham, Leeds, Newcastle and Perth between 25th and 27th of August en route to Aviemore, culminating in a blast back down from Aviemore to Edinburgh on 28th August with literally hundreds of harley riders at the finale of the Thunder in the Glens rally.

Heather Chapple, a trustee of Amazon Heart UK, explained "Younger women can feel very isolated when they are diagnosed as they enter a medical system designed around the needs of older women. Living with breast cancer shakes the foundations of their lives; challenging their body image, family and professional lives. Peer support programmes are invaluable in helping women find the strength and courage to face their personal challenges. Last year I joined a magnificent group of women on an Amazon Heart adventure - I thought it may be a solemn, cathartic affair - but it was a riot, and the spirit of joy and strength that I gained from those other wonderful women has empowered me to make real changes and re-build my life"

Heather, 37, an architect and mum to a 4 year old, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004, said "I am very excited to be part of this ride and very grateful for the support that these women are demonstrating by taking the time to ride alongside us. I'm looking forward to spending a weekend in the bosom of the LOH."

Please support the riders to help IBC UK carry on its excellent work with this terrible disease and to help young women with breast cancer to find the strength they need.

To find out more about the ride and the riders, or to donate online go to www.amazonheartthunder.org. More information on Amazon Heart can be found on www.amazonheart.org. Information on Inflammatory Breast Cancer and IBC UK can be found on www.ibcuk.net

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

IBC UK (Registered Charity No 1104375)

