



CHARITY

Big-hearted bikers

The Amazon Heart Thunder Run gathers together women from all over the country to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer. This October, adventurers past and future will gather together to celebrate

This October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. In recognition of this, October 16 will see a gathering of women, all of whom have fought with breast cancer, many of whom are still fighting. These women are all part of Amazon Heart, an organisation set up to raise funds and awareness of breast cancer through the organisation of adventures and expeditions.

One such event is the Thunder Run, a rally that brings all these women together for one thunder-crashingly loud run. Events like these bring these women together, but it's the friendship bonds that form after these meetings that make the community strong throughout the rest of the year.

On October 16, Amazon Heart adventurers will meet at Oxford's Harley-Davidson headquarters.

At this point, they will collect shiny new Harley-Davidson and Buell motorcycles and return to their base in the Cotswolds for a weekend of great fun.

The weekend will feature a number of circular ride-outs to Bath, Stratford-upon-Avon and Wales, meeting supporters en-route, in order to raise funds. Amazon Heart's UK trustee, Heather Chapple explained: "While we're out and about we will be raising awareness of breast cancer, providing inspiration to others facing the disease and raising funds for

Sally Baker



It is with deep regret that we report that Sally Baker lost her long battle with cancer and passed away on Saturday March 29 2008.

Sally's fight with this debilitating disease spanned over nine years and was nothing

Amazon Heart Trust UK, who establish peer support adventures for UK women diagnosed with breast cancer and provide grant support to likeminded organisations."

After the weekend's festivities, they'll be returning to Oxford on Monday October 20 where, sadly, they'll have to give the bikes back. All of them.

However, the weekend is about so much more than just fundraising. Heather continued, "As well as raising funds and awareness, this gathering is a consolidation of the growing community of Amazon Heart women in the UK and a chance for us to mark the passing of the three inspirational women - sisters from previous rides - that we've lost over the past years: Jane, Dee and Sal."

As well as this UK celebration, one of this country's Amazon Hearts will be taking on the challenge of the Amazon Heart Thunder USA - a run from Los Angeles to San Francisco . Wendy Peek, from Greasby, The Wirral, rides a 883 Sportster custom at home and is going to be raising money to support UK charities while having an adventure of her own. You can support her at www.smartgive.com/funds/ahtusa08wendy/

Heather has always been amazed by the support that the UK 's H.O.G. Chapters have provided over the last three years' runs. She commented: "Over the past three years we have been blessed with incredible support from H.O.G. chapters and Harley-Davidson dealerships the length and breadth of the country and we look forward to visiting many of you again in future years. In the meantime, should you wish to make a donation in support of these incredible women you can do so online by going to the following site: www.smartgive.com/funds/ahtuk2008/

short of heroic, indeed she was still fighting to get back onto her beloved bike right to the very end.

In 2007 along with 20 other women who have suffered Breast Cancer, Sally took part in a 1,000 mile run from Aviemore to London for the benefit of the Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity and the Amazon Heart Trust UK . Find out more about this and Sally's work on the following links: www.amazonheart.org/AHThunder/sallybaker www.bikers4charity.co.uk

Sally was one of those shining lights in life whose grit and determination drew the admiration of everyone. A spirited lady and an active member of Meridian Chapter, she loved motorcycling and rarely missed social events - even when undergoing treatment.

Everyone of course will have their own special memories of Sally and without doubt she will be much missed by all, both within the Chapter and elsewhere. I am sure though that her fighting spirit and passion for life will live on and serve as an example to us all in the months and years to come. Likewise, her spirit will never be far from us when we ride our bikes.

Our sincere sympathy and thoughts are with Sally's family and most of all her 'rock' Phil, who stoically supported her through this long and arduous journey.

Dave Mann, Assistant Director, Meridian Chapter H.O.G.

