

WOMEN OF COURAGE RIDE AGAINST BREAST CANCER

Friday, August 10.



Liz Furlong hopes the Thunder Ride will save lives.

Twenty women, all in various stages of the battle against breast cancer, are to ride Harleys 1000 miles – from Aviemore to London – to raise awareness about the disease and money to help in its defeat.

The women vary in age from their thirties to early seventies and include three who are taking their motorcycle tests in order to take part. The ride begins from the Thunder in the Glen Rally on 26 August and is due to arrive in London on 1 September with overnight stops at Edinburgh, Once Brewed, Hawes, Hartington (Buxton), Stratford-upon-Avon and Salisbury.

Similar runs are also planned to take place in the United States, from Los Angeles to San Francisco (15-22 September) and in Australia, from Melbourne to

Adelaide (19-26 October). All the rides are organised by the Amazon Heart Organisation under the banner Amazon Heart Thunder.

Harley-Davidson are providing the bikes and sponsorship money from the British event will go to the Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity. Amazon founders Meredith Campbell, from Australia, and Megan Dwyer, from the United States, are jetting in to take part in the annual UK ride, which is now in its third year. Heather Chapple, chair of the Amazon Heart Trust, said: "Every year 40,000 women in the UK are diagnosed with breast cancer. Think of this as a peer support group on wheels and a life-affirming experience."

Liz Furlong echoed that. Liz, who will celebrate her 49th birthday on the ride, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001. She said during treatment she looked back on the two things she had enjoyed most in her life – motorcycling and singing – and set herself new goals in both.

Her musical ambition was achieved when she sang with the National Festival Orchestra at the Royal Philharmonic Hall. Then last year she rode a Harley 883 Low in the Amazon ride in Australia. She described that experience as 'awesome.'

Liz is now a customer service administrator for Manchester Harley-Davidson and will be riding a 1200L Sportster in this year's UK run. She said:

"For me on a very personal level it gives a boost to my life and gives me strength to be with these women. In addition to raising money it raises awareness and that could save women's lives."

To sponsor Liz or any of the other riders visit www.amazonheartthunder.org