

Cancer survivor goes the whole hog



Breast cancer survivor Sally Baker is preparing for the adventure of a lifetime - taking part in a 1,000-mile ride on a Harley Davidson.

The grueling ride from Aviemore in Scotland to London starts on August 22nd and finishes on September 1.

This event will see Sally, aged 44, join 20 other women who have had breast cancer.

The ride will start at the annual HOG rally in Scotland, and as they set off on their trek the women will be escorted into the heart of Edinburgh by 1,000 other Harley riders.

As well as gearing up for the challenge Sally is also seeking support from the local community to reach her fundraising goal of £3,000.

The money raised will support the work of the Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity and Amazon Heart.

"I wanted to take part in the event last year but unfortunately was undergoing treatment after being diagnosed with secondary bone cancer," said Sally.

"I sincerely hope the ride can raise awareness of breast cancer and prove that life does go on after diagnosis."

Sally will be hosting a fundraising day at The George Pub in Beckenham High Street on August 11, and would love to hear from potential supporters and sponsors.

Harley Davidson is loaning brand new motorcycles to all the women taking part in this adventure and Sally herself has been sponsored by Warr's Harley Davidson who have donated three days' free hire of a Harley, to be raffled during the fundraising day.

Sally added: "I sincerely hope that by participating in this ride, we can raise awareness of this disease, particularly among younger women and prove that life does go on after a diagnosis of cancer - people often assume that cancer means your life is over, when in many cases this is so far from the truth.

"The physical and emotional effects of treatment can often mean that the joy goes out of life. The fact that my cancer has returned has made me all the more determined to show that life can and does return to normal and is most definitely for living.

"I want to disprove the common stereotypes of someone living with cancer. I hate it when people assume that I'm too weak or feeble to do something, or seem surprised when I tell them that I actually work for a living, rather than taking to my sickbed - I am not disabled or an invalid - in fact most of the time I don't even feel ill."

For details about making a donation to Sally visit justgiving.com/AHTUKsallybaker

1:00pm Wednesday 8th August 2007