

## Women bikers in cancer charity ride

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Fifteen women bikers have set off on a week-long road trip to raise tens of thousands of pounds for younger women with breast cancer.

The adrenalin junkies, 12 of whom have survived the disease themselves, will cover almost 1,000 miles on their ride to Edinburgh.

They hope to raise £60,000 for the Lavender Trust, at Breast Cancer Care, as they motor through the Cotswolds, the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales, the Lake District and Northumberland.

The Lavender Trust is the only fund in Britain dedicated to offering support to sufferers under 50 with the disease.

The 15 riders and the driver of their support van, who are all in their 30s and 40s and hail from around the UK, the United States and Australia, gathered at the Ace Cafe on the outskirts of London to begin their journey.

The Changing Gears Bike Challenge follows a similar ride in America last year from San Diego to San Francisco and will be followed in September by another ride in the States and one in Australia in October.

The women, who will arrive in Edinburgh next Saturday, will ride their own bikes and seven brand new Harley Davidsons lent by the company for the event.

The group will ride for about five hours a day and will stay at youth hostels.

Each year in the UK 41,000 women and 300 men are diagnosed with breast cancer. About 20% of those are aged under 50.

Organiser Megan Dwyer, 38, from California, who was one of those who set up the American ride, said the trip was all about sharing experiences and enjoying life. "It's tremendous peer support," she said.