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Monday, 16th July 2007

Published Date: 12 July 2007 Location: Wigan

## Darlene's on her bike for charity

By **Andna Aljilani**

A Wigan motorbike fanatic will be donning her leathers and taking to the open road for a national breast cancer charity, writes Adnan Aljilani.

Darlene Mawdsley, from Stanstead Close, Whelley will be covering more than 1,000 miles when she rides from Aviemore, in the Scottish highlands, to London as part of Amazon Heart Thunder 2007. The 49-year-old bike enthusiast, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003, will be taking on the mammoth challenge for the third time and is hoping that this will be her most successful trip yet. The ride, beginning on August 26, is in aid of the Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity and Amazon Heart Trust UK.



**ON HER BIKE: Darlene Mawdsley.**

Darlene said: "I'm counting down the days until I jump on my bike and get on the road because it is always such a lot of fun. "I'll be joined by 23 other participants so it will probably end up looking like a scene from the movie Easy Rider.

"We always get truckers and other people going by in cars honking at us and showing their support during the seven days which adds to the fun of the whole event." Harley Davidson have shown their support for the ride and have loaned motorcycles and leather riding jackets to participants.

Darlene has already been sponsored by a dealership of the company in Preston and a telecommunications company in London who will be paying out £1 for every mile she travels. Darlene added: "We're set to be stopping over in lots of places on the way including Newcastle, Warwickshire and Birmingham where we'll be going to the National Motorcycle Museum. "As we are going in such a large group it gives everybody the opportunity to get to know each other and make friends."

Darlene was originally diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003, re-diagnosed in 2005 and also this year.

The determined motorcycle instructor believes that organisations such as Amazon Heart and the Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity have shown her an abundance of help and support. She said: "They are absolutely fantastic.

"There are not many support groups for people around the age of 40 with breast cancer as it seems to be associated with older women.

"The arrival of groups like Amazon Heart, and the activities they provide, assure people that being diagnosed with breast cancer is not the death sentence it once appeared to be.

"I'm hoping to raise as much money as I can so every bit of support I can get is really appreciated."

To sponsor Darlene, or to find out more information on Amazon Heart, go to [www.amazonheart.com](http://www.amazonheart.com) or [www.helenrollason.org.uk](http://www.helenrollason.org.uk).

*Last Updated: 12 July 2007 2:22 PM*

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