

Cordula Schirmeister's trek from London to Paris 2011

Cordula has recently taken part in a London to Paris cycle in memory of her dear friend Elaine who was sadly taken away by this terrible disease. Elaine was the strongest, warmest and caring person Cordula has ever met in her life, and she is Cordula's motivation to undergo this physical task and raise money for Mesothelioma Charitable Trust.

Here's Cordula's story on her amazing life time experience...

Together with another 66 cyclists I set off from Blackheath Common at 6:45 and on Saturday afternoon. At 3:15 I arrived at the Eiffel Tower, the most amazing thing I have done so far in my life.

The first day we cycled in the lovely sunshine from London to Dover and crossed the channel on the ferry and stayed over night in Calais. I just did 80 miles with some nasty hills and climbs. Unfortunately the weather changed and on the second day we cycled over 30 miles in the pouring rain before we all arrived safely in Arras.

The third day we cycled through the normally so beautiful region of the Somme but again the rain and the wind was with us for more than 40 miles. After lunch it stopped raining and we soon dried up again with the wind against us. Tired but still in very good spirits we arrived in the sun in Compiègne, the last night before the big day in Paris. We were all very excited in till we got told we have to leave again at the latest at 7am.

The nearer we came to Paris the better the weather became and we all waited for each other in a park just a few miles away from the Eifel Tower.



67 cyclists followed a van through Paris pass the Arc de Triumph down the Champs Elysees to the Eiffel Tower. I can't describe how I felt when I finally got of my bike, it was a very emotional moment but I felt so great after having achieved this demanding task.

Cordula's thoughts...

There was not one day I wasn't thinking of Elaine and it helped me up some nasty climbs. All the hard training in the last few months paid off and apart from some very tired thighs I felt really good. I made some amazing new friends and it proved if you put your heart to something you can achieve a lot.



Cordula very happy after completing her remarkable challenge!!



Everybody who took part in the London to Paris cycle.

I couldn't have done it without all the great support, encouragement and patience from all my family and friends. This Bike ride will have a special place in my heart just as my very special friend Elaine. I also know now that if you put your heart and soul into something you can actually achieve it. So watch out, I am already thinking about my next challenge!!

We would like to say a massive thank you to Cordula for raising an incredible £3,530,16 including gift aid. This is a very lengthy arduous trek and you did it so well! Well done!!